

THE SATURDAY REVIEW

POLITICS, LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

No. 2,616 Vol. 100.

16 December 1905.

6d.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
NOTES OF THE WEEK	765	MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES (<i>continued</i>):		CORRESPONDENCE (<i>continued</i>):	
LEADING ARTICLES:		A Vapid Play. By Max Beerbohm	774	County Council Music. By Wakeling	
The New Ministry	768	Sir Edward Elgar on Programme		Dry	780
The Adulteration of the Peerage	769	Music. By John F. Runciman	775	Similarities in Dialect. By Jas. Child	780
Ireland and the Liberals	770	Man and Marvels	776	The Education Problem. By the Rev.	
Separatism in Spain	771	Village Portraits: an Heir of the Ages	777	Compton Reade	780
THE CITY	772	Chess	778	REVIEWS:	
INSURANCE: The Future of American		Bridge	779	Sanity and Sympathy	781
Life Offices	773	VERSE:		Politics or History?	782
MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES:		"Pene-Insularum, Sirmio, Insular-		S. Catherine of Florence	783
The Jew in Russia. By Alexander		umque." By H. P. Cooke	777	Words about Words	784
Kinloch	773	CORRESPONDENCE:		The Ways of Our Railways	785
		Germany and the Peace of Europe	779	NOVELS	785
		For Negrophiles	780	NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS	786

We beg leave to state that we decline to return or to enter into correspondence as to rejected communications; and to this rule we can make no exception. Manuscripts not acknowledged within four weeks are rejected.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The new Cabinet has been tasting the hors d'œuvres of office during the past week. The list was laid before the King on Sunday by the Prime Minister, and published next day. Since then Ministers have had audiences with the King, and have gone through various formal rites and preliminaries at their departments. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's Cabinet numbers nineteen, two more than Mr. Balfour's and one less than Lord Salisbury's. Rudely it might be said to consist of two classes; one class holding Mr. John Burns, President of the Local Government Board and Mr. Lloyd-George, President of the Board of Trade, the other the rest of the Cabinet. The aristocracy—about a third of the total—the law, and the solid middle class is each represented. The great majority of the Ministers have the unmistakable Cabinet tradition: Mr. Morley (India), Sir Edward Grey (Foreign Office), Mr. Asquith (Chancellor of the Exchequer), Lord Ripon (Privy Seal), Sir Henry Fowler (Duchy of Lancaster)—a Cabinet, Radical or Tory, wanting in a majority of men of this genre is unthinkable.

Mr. Burns as Right Honourable and as potential Minister in attendance has tickled the public imagination. There is of course talk about it in every bar, bun-shop, and barber's saloon; at the clubs too, the newspaper offices, everywhere. Some people are downright scandalised and even seem to regard the appointment as an affront or menace. We fancy this is rather an inflamed view. Mr. Burns has plenty of common sense, he is fresh and ebullient. We do not think he will set the Local Government Board on fire. Many people have found Mr. Burns' voice in public affairs rather too loud for their taste. Well, Gargantua now is gagged.

The second list of Ministerial appointments is weaker than the first. Sir Charles Dilke is left out of the Government, but Mr. McKenna, his political and parliamentary pupil, is in. Mr. McKenna did not pleasantly distinguish himself a year or two ago in a passage

at arms with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Did the Prime Minister forget or remember this to his advantage when he was making up the Government? Lord Portsmouth is Under-Secretary of State for War. These War Office posts are very trying. Men often lose their popularity when they have been a year or two at the War Office: but no doubt the new Under-Secretary has well considered this. Mr. Causton comes in as Paymaster-General: it is an odd fact that the only post in the Government which is unpaid is that of Paymaster-General. Mr. Shaw is Lord Advocate for Scotland. He is one of the few orators in the House of Commons to-day. New blood is brought in by the appointment of Mr. Herbert Samuel to the Home Office Under-Secretaryship.

Mr. J. E. Ellis has won so decisively the place of *vir pietate gravis* in the House of Commons that we almost wonder he should care to exchange it for an under-secretaryship. India in the House under the new administration will surely not be wanting in august solemnity, with Mr. Morley fortified by Mr. Ellis. Somehow one has come to associate these under-secretaryships with young and promising figures. You could not call Mr. Ellis promising to-day—he has fulfilled his promise long ago. Everybody admits this, and respects him. By way of set-off Sir Henry puts Mr. Winston Churchill into what we may call a twin office, the Under-Secretaryship of State for the Colonies! It would have been a still prettier joke to put Mr. Churchill at the head of the India Office, his father's first post, and give him Mr. Ellis as understrapper.

Surely the new Lord Chancellor must be counted amongst the most fortunate of men, for his warmest friends cannot claim that he is a great lawyer, or a great advocate, or a great parliamentarian. But he is a good all-round man, a good enough lawyer, and a good enough politician for his exalted position. Sir Robert Reid, like Mr. Asquith and Mr. Haldane, has never concealed his preference for politics; and in these days, when the Lord Chancellor only sits in House of Lords appeals, he is more of a politician than a lawyer. Trollope philosophises, in one of his novels, on the fact that some men are born to be called by their Christian names, or some pet abbreviation thereof. The Lord Chancellor has always been known at the Bar and in the House of Commons as "Bob" Reid, and surely no greater compliment could be paid a man



by his fellows. For it signifies their appreciation of the fact that he is a thoroughly good fellow. Sir Robert Reid is as straight as a die, just, fearless, and earnest. These are the qualities to which he owes his elevation, and which may make him one of the famous Chancellors of Great Britain. His weaknesses are a rather peppery temper, and a deep-seated belief that all Tories are either fools or knaves.

The legal profession generally is very strongly represented in the new Ministry. Seven lawyers, five of them being barristers and two solicitors, fill non-legal offices; Mr. John Morley being the only one whose description as a barrister is merely nominal. Mr. Asquith and Mr. Haldane were among the greater lights of the Courts, and either of them might have made a Lord Chancellor or a law officer if ambition had not otherwise directed him. Any surprise that Mr. Haldane should be Secretary for War is superfluous. It has long been known that he foresaw "efficiency" at the War Office, or some other administrative department, installed in his own person. Mr. Birrell has never been in the front rank at the Bar; and latterly the incongruity between the pursuits he followed from inclination and his professional work was evident. Mr. Bryce has actually practised a little, but his legal record is that of the professor and writer, the jurist not the practitioner. Sir Henry Fowler and Mr. Lloyd-George are solicitors. Mr. Lawson Walton and Mr. Robson are both distinguished barristers, and the legal profession has no strictures to make on the score of political considerations in their case. In politics Mr. Lawson Walton and Mr. Robson are of the Imperialist cast of Mr. Asquith and Mr. Haldane: as lawyers they are fit successors to Sir Robert Finlay and Sir Edward Carson.

Several eminent Liberals have perforce been denied by the Prime Minister the chance they desire of serving their country. The best policy for a man in such a plight is to hold his peace. What Lord Salisbury once called "peculiar circumstances" has no doubt compelled the Liberal leader to drop Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice and Lord Monkswell. Lord Edmond could not resist taking his farewell in public. His threnody is not a thing to gird at, though the public cannot be expected to squeeze out a tear for him. He is leaving Parliament because the position of a man who was a front bench and cannot be so any longer is inconvenient, even intolerable. There is much in this no doubt. But one can think of notable exceptions. Sir William Hart Dyke was left out; and he has cut anything but a humiliating figure on the back benches.

We fancy that a great many supporters of Mr. Balfour, who are now bidding farewell to public life, must be disappointed by a list of honours which is unusually short for the occasion, and which is based on no discoverable principle. When a Prime Minister retires after a long tenure of power it is perfectly recognised that he should reward his party adherents. The regular New Year and Birthday honours are supposed to be granted by the Sovereign on national and personal rather than political grounds. But a retiring Premier's list is, as a rule, purely political, and ought to be so, for it is the Minister's last chance of distinguishing services to the party. On what grounds, political or any other, for that matter, is Sir Herbert "de" Stern made a peer? The newspapers, with their usual desire to be communicative, can only tell us that he is a nephew of "Viscount de Stern", who was a Frankfort financier. But what services has Sir Herbert rendered to the Conservative party?

We always thought that Lord Rosebery's creation of Lord Wandsworth was bad enough, but this creation strikes us as more cynical still. Lord Wandsworth at all events did sit in the House of Commons, as Viscount de Stern, at least so he once wrote himself down on the pairing paper, when somebody else came and struck out the "Viscount de". But the man had fought and won a seat; whereas we are not aware that Sir Herbert "de" Stern has ever sat in the House of Commons, or stood for it. His services to the Unionist party must therefore be of that confidential kind, which are known

only to Captain Wells, or Colonel Haig, or possibly to Mr. Akers Douglas. Now we come to think of it, there is the true "Douglas touch" about this peerage. But who is responsible for placing a coronet on the brow of the great "snippet" newsvendor? And so "Answers" and "Comic Cuts" have brought Sir Alfred Harmsworth through a baronetcy to the House of Lords! Surely this is the most comic cut of all!

It is pleasant to turn from this unabashed worship of the golden calf to the viscounty bestowed on Sir Michael Hicks-Beach for long and brilliant services to the country and the Conservative party. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach was one of the best Chancellors of the Exchequer we have ever had, being a cool and clear-headed man of business, who stood no nonsense from permanent officials or House of Commons. He is the only one of the older leaders of the Tory party who has contrived to retire gracefully from the fiscal squabble without loss of dignity or reputation. His successor, Mr. Ritchie, is also ennobled, and though we are no admirers of Mr. Ritchie's statesmanship, his peerage is quite appropriate to his long tenure of Cabinet office. To Mr. Ritchie we owe the London County Council, a far more insidious gift than the Trojan horse, and the parrot cry of "the cheap and the dear loaf". Had it not been for Mr. Ritchie's obstinacy in refusing to renew the 1s. duty on wheat, this harmless experiment in protection would have been made without any fuss, or party quarrels.

The list of quite respectable gentlemen who are created baronets calls for no comment, except as to an omission, which we do not think creditable to the Patronage Secretary, if indeed he has any voice in the matter. Mr. Brooke Robinson, who has held a large working-class constituency like Dudley for the Conservative party for over twenty years, is allowed to retire without a mark of recognition, which he has surely done as much to deserve as Mr. Benjamin Cohen, or Mr. Lindsay Hogg. The blue and red riband of S. Michael and S. George hardly strikes us as an adequate compensation for Mr. Henniker Heaton's very real service in obtaining the Imperial Penny postage, though we ought to congratulate him on having escaped a pure and simple knighthood, which has descended on the shoulders of Mr. Moss of Hippodrome and Coliseum celebrity. Major Evans Gordon, who has wrought like a slave to win and hold Stepney, and done patriotic and philanthropic work on the Aliens question, is also to be "dubb'd with unhatched rapier".

In his own constituency on Saturday Mr. Balfour explained the reasons for his resignation, expressly reserving for a few weeks his wider survey of Conservative and Liberal policy. In that survey no doubt, he intends to give a line for the General Election, and to clear up the fiscal confusion. At the moment the party is admittedly not armed cap à pied for the fight; there is a spot in the armour where it is vulnerable, and to this Mr. Balfour intends to address himself. As to the resignation he urged that it would have been unpatriotic to resign last July, when the Government was defeated on the Irish Estimates, in the midst of negotiations for the treaty with Japan which was to lay the "solid foundation of peace in the Eastern Seas". That defeat was mere trumpery, as we said at the time, and to resign on it would have been contemptible. The commanding reason for resignation, Mr. Balfour said in effect, is the unfitness of the party at the moment to go on with Redistribution. We entirely agree. To present a redistribution scheme with prospects of success, your party must be like a pack of hounds in full cry, with a burning scent.

No society born of national necessity ever justified itself more promptly or more surely than the British Cotton Growing Association. At its annual dinner in Manchester on Monday night ample evidence was given that it had laid the foundations of a great imperial work, notwithstanding the fact that barely half the £500,000 required has been subscribed. Mr. Balfour has from the first done all he could

to encourage the movement. He has always recognised, as he showed on Monday night, that the only way of stopping gambling in cotton futures is to ensure an adequate supply of the raw material. On that score there should be no difficulty when such resources are available as the British Empire possesses in abundance. The individual cannot act alone; no help is to be looked for from legislation. "Co-operation between the individual and the State is the best", said Mr. Balfour. If British imperial opportunities had been seized earlier, the crisis of 1904 would have been restricted if not obviated.

Mr. Seddon, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, was long ago nicknamed King Richard I. He certainly seems very nearly to have reached the position of an elective prince. In the general elections which have just been held he has not only done better than his opponents predicted; he has gone well ahead of his own estimate. The result is that he has a three to one majority—roughly sixty to twenty. Sir William Russell and other leaders of the Opposition have actually lost their seats, and New Zealand seems to be in the position of having no alternative to the Seddon Ministry. The Prime Minister's success is the more striking because his party has been in office fifteen years without a break.

A very valuable contribution to the tariff discussion is made by the second volume, issued on Tuesday, of the Tariff Commission Report on the Textile Trades, dealing with the woollen industry. Elaborate statistics are given over a period of twenty-three years which go to show that the trade is not only declining but declining rapidly. As profits have diminished, mills have either been closed or transferred abroad. In regard to woollen manufactures foreign imports have undermined home manufactures to an extent which is alarming. There is no falling off in the skill of the operatives or of the readiness of the manufacturer to supply what customers demand. The explanation is simply that the foreigner is securing British markets, and capital goes abroad in order to enjoy the double market at the cost of British labour. That preference would materially assist British trade cannot be doubted, in view of the fact that Bradford's trade with Canada nearly doubled within the six years following the Dominion tariff of 1897.

Mr. Chamberlain's Oxford speech, delivered on Friday in last week, was admirably attuned to an audience of young bloods. The average undergraduate is not poetically squeamish and no doubt enjoyed the patriotic fervour of the citation from the Canadian poet. The chairman, the distinguished President of Magdalen, seemed to share in the general expectation of the senior members of the University that they were to have a scientific exposition of Mr. Chamberlain's economics. But Mr. Chamberlain knew better. Living much in the future he preferred the undergraduates to the dons. Here was an opportunity to inoculate the young mind with enthusiasm for the Empire and Mr. Chamberlain took it. The more he insists on the purely imperial side of the preference policy, the more will be his success.

The Yellow Book on Moorish affairs, covering a period of more than four years and detailing the relations of France with the Maghzen, the negotiations with Great Britain and the intervention of Germany, puts the French case very strongly. France was appealed to again and again to assist the Sultan; Germany recognised her exceptional position, and apparently M. Delcassé throughout kept Prince Radolin informed of whatever was happening likely to affect international interests. Perhaps we should not be far wrong if we suggested that the Sultan, having received material assistance from France, then had fears that France might seek to annex Morocco, and turned to Germany who promptly took action. It is at least clear that France did not ignore Germany.

The difference between Germany and Brazil seems likely to prove a storm in a teacup, due perhaps, or probably, to the over-zeal of an ambitious naval officer. It is incredible that the warship of a civilised nation

should land an armed force on the shores of a friendly State and deliberately kidnap a man. We are well aware that at least one province of Brazil, Santa Caterina, has a white population chiefly consisting of Germans, but it is highly unlikely that the Kaiser would openly challenge the Monroe Doctrine on such insecure grounds when he might at some other time have the European world behind him. If Brazil is furious, the Berlin Foreign Office seems to be in an entirely conciliatory mood. Brazil very wisely will act for herself and has made no appeal for the assistance of the "big stick". There are some allies more dangerous than foes.

Prince Bülow was not in his suave mood on Thursday when he told Herr Bebel certain truths about the Social Democratic Press of Germany and some sections of the Press in England doing their best to create misapprehensions between the two countries. Certain of the Social Democrats' statements as to the Government's actions, which Herr Bebel brought forward as justifying England's suspicions of German designs, Prince Bülow characterised in a graduated series as "That is a lie; that is nonsense; that too is nonsense: that is an idiotic lie". The references were to such alleged matters as the mobilisation of the German fleet; the last being the ascription of the bad feeling to a serious quarrel between the Emperor William and King Edward. There is a good deal in what Prince Bülow says, that sensible people in both countries feel none of the hostility which certain parties go out of their way to picture between them.

The Macedonian muddle is not yet at an end. The Sultan refuses to yield completely till resistance is clearly shown to be useless. It may be that he hopes for some stay of execution owing to the advent of a new Ministry in this country. It is also evident that he is pulling all the wires he can to influence different members of the European Concert. This is shown by the resolution wired over from "The Mohammedans of Lahore" remonstrating with the Emperor of India, "the ruler of the largest Mohammedan community in the world, for permitting the coercion of the Caliph State". We should be greatly surprised if this movement had not been engineered from Yildiz. During late years there have been very strenuous attempts made to set on foot a pan-Islamic agitation in India, but as a matter of fact the Sultan has not on the whole been regarded seriously as the Caliph by Indian Mohammedans, though the British Government has rather favoured his claims. Other pretenders might prove more dangerous to peace. The changes proposed by the Porte are chiefly verbal, save one which reserves to the Sultan the right to decide finally in case of a difference between the Turkish and the Christian Commissioners. This is clearly an inadmissible claim, and would stultify, if admitted, the whole of the proceedings.

A week ago it was announced that the Russian postal strike had ended, everything having been practically conceded to the employes. Two or three days afterwards it was said the strike was still dragging on, and that the Minister of the Interior had issued a circular declaring that he intended to destroy the Postal and Telegraph Union and dismiss all who joined it. This is a good instance of the confusion left on one after reading the conflicting accounts of events asserted to have happened in Russia during the week. There has yet been no general strike and the project is indeed said to be abandoned. The tone of the news seems to suggest that Count Witte's Ministry, having failed to come to terms with the Constitutionalists, who are demanding a Constituent Assembly with other exaggerated claims, has taken measures to clip the wings of the extreme revolutionaries.

The proceedings arising out of the stranding of the "Assistance" in Tetuan Bay last October have afforded the Lords of the Admiralty an opportunity to show that they are not without remedy when there is sufficient cause to interfere with a verdict which does not seem to be warranted by the facts. The Board of Admiralty has no power to overrule the findings of a court-martial and quash a judgment unless some legal flaw can be detected in the procedure, and it is fortunately seldom

that any reason exists for a difference of opinion between Admiralty and Court. For a parallel to the measures taken on this occasion it is necessary to turn back to 1893 to the case of the "Howe", which stranded on entering the Port of Ferrol through an omission in the chart. The Memo issued on Tuesday amounts practically to a reprimand of the Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic Fleet, and it will be interesting to see whether he will follow the precedent set him by Admiral Fairfax and apply for a court-martial. Nothing is said in the Memo about the duty of a navigating officer to call the attention of his captain to any special warning found in the sailing directions.

The spirit of comedy itself would not allow us to pretend to treat seriously so early in the life of the ministry the answers given to the unemployed deputation by the Premier and the President of the Local Government Board. If the deputation had been electioneering for Mr. Balfour they could not have contrived a prettier little formal dilemma for the men who now control the policy of the Local Government Board. They neither of them could have said anything at such short notice which affected the position in any way as Mr. Balfour left it. Later on it will be different, and it will be awkward at least for Mr. Burns if he has not something to say which goes considerably beyond Mr. Balfour's utterances. The probability is that the ministry as a whole will not be at all more inclined to State experiment than the last Cabinet was; while Mr. Burns is in theory committed to them. But even he has made it clear that he objects to farm colonies as provided by the Act; and as this is its principal feature, what will the Labour party say who want the Act to be more and not less far-reaching?

The criminal libel action against Sir Edward Russell, the editor of the "Liverpool Daily Post", brought by certain members of the City Licensing Committee, ended in his acquittal. Sir Edward is a zealous licensing reformer, and he persuaded himself that the licensing committee had shown too great tenderness for the trade in levying a less amount of compensation than he thought ought to have been levied on the existing licensees. Some members of the committee read in his article an accusation of purposely voting to favour individuals in the trade. This they said implied corruption in their office. The jury took the view that this was not the intention of the article and so Sir Edward was acquitted. We do not see why so much should be made of the case as involving the liberty of the press. If a newspaper or any other writer charges a man with improper conduct untruly, he makes a libellous statement; if he has not made the charge the case falls through: and this is all that the jury found about Sir Edward Russell.

By the death of Sir Richard Jebb we have not only lost the greatest of our Hellenists, but a most valuable leader of education. Jebb, for he was great enough to be spoken of without his title, knew the value of classical training, and was better able to judge of it than any other man of his day. Other good Greek scholars we have, many of them, and some may arise as great as he; but the great scholar is too often a mere academic. Jebb took a practical interest in the life around him. A success in the House of Commons he was not—somehow University dons seldom are: Sir William Anson is not; and even Lecky was hardly a success; but his Parliamentary work was but a small incident—or accident—in Jebb's life.

The Free Fooders are so hard up for wit and argument that we make them a present of the following joke from the Brookfield collection. Somebody said of Hume—Joseph the economist, not David the historian—"He goes the whole hog, and looks the hog he goes". We merely suggest this to Free Trade candidates when they are gruelled for matter, as a playful repartee to their Chamberlainite opponent. Of course it might not go down on all platforms: in some constituencies it might even lead to "cracked crowns and bloody noses". But what of that? It certainly does not come within the new law of election libels, and it might win the seat.

THE NEW MINISTRY.

LORD ROSEBERY was quite right when, speaking to the Liberal League on Monday, he insisted on strength as the cardinal point about a new ministry. The doctrine may not come with the greatest congruity from his lips, but it is not insight, it is not correct intuition, that fails Lord Rosebery. If knowing were doing Lord Rosebery would be one of the greatest statesmen this or any other country has ever produced. The power to perceive is there right enough, and it makes Lord Rosebery always an able and brilliant critic, just as the absence of the other thing needful prevents him from becoming even a tolerably good Minister or party leader. In his present capacity of adviser to a ministry of his friends he is at his best; for he can give full play to his critical faculties and is yet relieved from the necessity of criticism for criticism's sake. Probably the criticism of friends, though the most unpalatable and usually just a little inclined to malice, is the truest criticism we ever get. Lord Rosebery has succeeded in finding the exact position to show him to the most advantage. And his words may well be worth attending to now even for other qualities than their literary perfection. He certainly was not platitudinising when he urged on the Liberal League the supreme importance to the country of strength in a government. We have no doubt all of us noticed that strength in a ministry does as a fact tell more than anything else, that the nation will put up with almost any policy from a government resolute in carrying it through, while it will never forgive ministerial weakness, no matter how consonant with the general sentiment of the nation ministers' policy and legislative projects may be. But it is not equally obvious that the people are right in this instinct. At first sight it might seem the other way, for a ministry after all is but a temporary affair, while its measures may be permanent in their operation, or at any rate they nearly always outlast the government that passed them. An Act may produce changes in the constitution or the social machinery of the country almost unending in their results, every change involving further change. But the difference between a strong and a weak government touches things deeper and more permanent than the forms, the machinery of national life, which is the material of legislation. Lord Salisbury was never tired of insisting on the comparative powerlessness of legislation; but he never made light of the effect on the national life of strength or weakness in the executive government. The sense of security which comes from public confidence and underlies commercial and all other prosperity is impossible under an irresolute and feeble ministry. There must of course be some disturbance of confidence, whenever any great legislative change is expected or feared, but we doubt if the sense of insecurity is so widespread as that produced by a generally feeble ministry. It is thus doubly important for the country that a Radical Government should be strong; for of necessity every Radical Government produces a good deal of disturbance in the public mind by the expectation of large constitutional changes, and this disturbance can only be compensated by confidence in the government's general strength. A weak government attempting heroic reforms is of all things the most damaging to public confidence.

The strength of a ministry depends, first, on the personality of the Prime Minister, second, on the ability and character of the individual members making up the Cabinet, third, on the Cabinet's homogeneity and coherence, and, fourth, on the majority it commands in the House of Commons. Plainly no ministry, though it have all the talents and all the virtues, can make a strong government if its tenure of life hangs on a precarious majority in the Commons. It dare not take risks; it cannot attempt anything big; it lives from hand to mouth. How the Liberal ministry will find itself placed in this respect after the coming election it is idle to speculate now. We shall soon know. In the meantime it is the duty of all Unionists to do their utmost to obtain a strong Unionist government and save the country from a weak Liberal one.

No one will question Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's title to the Premiership. He has stuck to his post

through good times and bad; he has borne the ill-concealed sneers of his friends with as much fortitude as the open invective of his opponents. He has held on undaunted and demonstrated once again that steadiness is more effective than speed, persistency more successful than brilliancy. It would indeed have been hard measure if this assiduous labourer in Parliament, and out of it, had had to make way for a butterfly politician, lighting on the arena when he saw a chance of effectively displaying his splendours and flitting off at sight of the dust of conflict. He would not soil his wings. Certainly Sir Henry has earned his reward. If in other things he were as strong as in his title to the biggest prize, he would be strong indeed, and a potent guarantee of the strength of his Government. But impartial scrutiny cannot disguise the fact that he is of inferior calibre, whether in intellect or personality, to nearly all his predecessors since the days of Lord Liverpool. It is enough to name them—Mr. Balfour, Lord Salisbury, Lord Rosebery, Gladstone, Disraeli, Lord Derby, Lord Palmerston, Lord John Russell, Sir Robert Peel, Lord Melbourne, Lord Grey, the Duke of Wellington, Canning. Moreover, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman is not the ablest man in his own Cabinet; in intellectual power he is not even the equal of two or three of his colleagues. His greater political experience may go some way to make up for deficiencies in other directions, but it is an element in the situation that must be taken account of that the Prime Minister is not even *primus inter pares*. Mr. Balfour had certainly an equal in ability in Mr. Chamberlain, but none in his Cabinet was his superior, while, since Mr. Chamberlain's withdrawal from parliamentary activity, Mr. Balfour has not only been easily first on his own side but first in the whole House. Strangely enough the position of the Liberal leader in both Houses will be the same in this respect: that each will be a less able and less distinguished man than at any rate one of his own party in his own House. This has not been the case for a long time, and we cannot say that we think it augurs well for the strength of the new ministry. The Prime Minister should be able to control his Cabinet not only by the authority of his office but by the weight and force of his own personality. If Mr. Gladstone at times was unable to control his colleagues, can Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman be expected to lead and control Mr. Asquith and Sir Edward Grey?

In collective ability the new Cabinet is certainly not inferior to Mr. Balfour's, though none of the new ministers is quite so good an all-round man as Mr. Balfour himself. Intellectually Mr. Asquith, Mr. Morley, and Sir Edward Grey are probably superior to any of Mr. Balfour's recent colleagues in the Commons: but we doubt if any one of these will do so well either in his own department or as a member of the Cabinet as did Lord Lansdowne. Both Mr. Asquith and Sir Edward Grey have without any doubt been given the departments best suited to them; each is in his right place: and we certainly expect them to do well. If Mr. Asquith does as well at the Treasury as he did at the Home Office, he will be remembered as a very great Chancellor of the Exchequer; but his task is a more difficult one this time. He will hardly be able to gain credit from opposite qualities as he did at the Home Office. The working men, especially the trade unionists, expected him to do well, and took his abortive Employers' Liability Bill as an earnest of what he would have done if, as they put it, he had been given a chance; so that they were not alienated by the firm front he showed against disturbance in Trafalgar Square, or even by his resolution in preventing a riot at the time of the coal strike in Yorkshire, a display of moral force which surprised and proportionately delighted the middle classes. Thus working man and middle class each of them rather likes Mr. Asquith in spite of his being liked by the other. He will find it more difficult to please both in his new office.

Quite the most serious weakness in the new Government is the lack of homogeneity. Not only is there very marked contrast amounting almost to antagonism in the character of some of the more conspicuous members—Mr. Morley side by side with Mr. Burns—Sir Edward Grey with the Premier—but on two whole

lines of policy they are divided into distinct groups, not merely as to immediate political action but by habit of thought and attitude. Two groups in the Cabinet look at Irish policy from an opposite point of view, and hardly less sharply contrasted is their attitude on labour and social questions. As there is the Home-Rule and the anti-Home-Rule group, so there is the individualist and the collectivist group. They may patch up their differences or they may agree to differ; neither process makes for strength; witness the career of the Unionist Cabinet. And yet Mr. Balfour was in a much stronger position to compel harmonious co-operation amongst his colleagues than Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman can ever hope to be.

THE ADULTERATION OF THE PEERAGE.

THE last creation of peers has excited so much astonishment and indignation in circles friendly to Mr. Balfour that the thought occurs, is Mr. Balfour responsible for the list? We are not of course referring to the peerages of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach and Mr. Ritchie, which are unexceptionable, or to that of Mr. Grenfell, who is a genial and popular country gentleman, and has been, on and off, a good many years in Parliament. We allude to the peerages which have been bestowed for no other apparent reason than because their recipients possess heavy bags of money. Is this really the last word of the first Prime Minister of the twentieth century? We refuse to believe it. The second Pitt is supposed to have said that "every man with £10,000 a year is entitled to a peerage", an income which, allowing for the altered value of money, is about equal to £20,000 a year to-day. We do not know when, where, or to whom Pitt uttered this audacious cynicism: we cannot find it in any of the speeches, letters, or authentic sayings of that particularly reserved statesman. But we are unable to deny that since the reign of George III. a peerage has been considered as the fitting reward of worldly success. The Sovereign, acting, generally but not always, upon the advice of his Prime Minister, sets the seal of public approval upon the position which a man has won for himself amongst his fellow-citizens whether in the discharge of his duties as a landowner and magistrate, or in the field of commerce as captain of industry or banker, in that of war as the victor of distant campaigns, or in the domain of science and letters. Some of the most honourable peerages have been bestowed on comparatively poor men, such as the late Lord Sherbrooke, Lord Tennyson, and Lord Playfair, and the present Lords Lister, Roberts, and Kitchener. The legal peerages do not of course count, as like the knighthoods of the judges they are appendant to the office. The one constant and indispensable qualification for admission to the chamber of nobles has hitherto been the continuous and meritorious performance of some public duty or national service. We now protest earnestly against the principle that seems to have silently grown up and got itself accepted in the highest quarters during the last ten years that a man may be ennobled and given the right to sit and vote amongst the hereditary aristocracy of Great Britain merely because he is very rich. A peerage has just been conferred on Sir Herbert de Stern, who a year or two ago was made a baronet. When we remember that in 1895 Lord Rosebery created Lord Wandsworth, the near relative of Sir Herbert de Stern, we may well ask what are the claims of this family upon the public that within ten years two of its members should be given the right to sit and vote with the hereditary aristocracy of Great Britain? Out of sheer curiosity we want to know what services, in court or camp, in public or in private, have the Sterns rendered to the British Empire that two Prime Ministers of opposite parties in the State should vie with one another in inviting them to take a seat amongst the *ἀριστοι*, "the best, the bravest, the noblest" (v. Liddell and Scott) that England can produce? Do Lord Wandsworth and Sir Herbert de Stern answer that description of aristocrats? Obviously not: then why have they been made peers? The answer is, Money. One thing

is certain. If this furious ennoblement of mere financiers continues, Mr. Zangwill and his friends may as well abandon the dream of founding a Zion beyond the seas. The House of Lords will have superior attractions; and every jobber in agiotage between Bremen and Berlin will pack his valise and repair to London. There is danger as well as humiliation in this policy of adulterating the peerage with mere wealth. Stuart Mill observed that the House of Lords retained its power in a democratic country because it was composed in the main of public functionaries. This is very true, for the aristocracies that have decayed and fallen into contempt have been those whose members have performed no public duties. Money-bags, so far from being a rampart against democracy, merely invite assault: and a House of Lords composed of plutocrats will not survive the test of modernity. With equal aversion, though of a somewhat different kind, we regard the peerage conferred upon Sir Alfred Harmsworth, the founder and proprietor of "Answers", "Comic Cuts", the "Daily Mail", "Daily Mirror", and a dozen other newspapers. The best way of describing our own feelings is by reporting what we gather to be the feelings of nine men out of ten. The majority of men were either shocked or amused, according to their temperament, by the news that Sir Alfred Harmsworth was to be made a peer. When one hears that Mr. W. H. Grenfell has been made a peer, one sees or rather feels that it matters nothing whether this gentleman is called "sir" or "my lord", whether he sits on a green bench or a red. But when one is told that Sir Alfred Harmsworth is a peer, one does not know whether to laugh or groan. Let us be just to Sir Alfred Harmsworth. Beginning the world with nothing, he has made a very large fortune by the production of certain newspapers. No man makes a pile without the possession of certain qualities, which are obviously rare, but which do not in our opinion necessarily entitle their possessor to a seat in the House of Lords. Sir Alfred Harmsworth has a genius for commercial organisation, which being translated means the power of getting the most for the least out of one's fellow-creatures. He has also a perception, amounting to an instinct, of the kind of printed stuff which the million like to read. We say advisedly that he has done more than any man of his generation to pervert and enfeeble the mind of the multitude. By his numerous journals he has catered for their morbid love of the sensational and their vulgar taste for personal gossip: while narrations such as that of the Pekin massacre have trained them to prefer excitement to truth. In short, we feel bound to express our opinion that Sir Alfred Harmsworth has exploited for his own profit the foibles and the ignorance of the masses. Nor has he even done this mischief for the sake of a political party, for he has been true to no party, and has made himself at different times the mouthpiece of Lord Rosebery, Mr. Chamberlain, and Mr. Balfour. Sir Alfred Harmsworth's career has surely been amply rewarded by a baronetcy. We fail to discover in his record any performance of those higher duties to the State or those wider services to humanity, which alone entitle a citizen to become a peer. We cherish the belief that Mr. Balfour is not solely responsible for creations which cannot but lower one of the greatest of our institutions in the eyes of educated men. It is however in the power of the new peers to prove our criticism harsh. They may so amend their manners as to become indistinguishable from those amongst whom they have been promoted to sit, and thus show that there is something in the old saying, "Noblesse oblige".

IRELAND AND THE LIBERALS.

OUR political critics have not realised the good luck that has come to Mr. Redmond in the fall of the Unionist Government at this particular moment. For he was beginning to suffer in the estimation of his countrymen from the unanswerable criticisms of independent Nationalists, when the advent of a General Election gave new force to his appeal for what is

euphemistically termed "unity". The Liberals, it is clear, must pay more attention to the leader of a solid party and dictator of the Irish vote in Great Britain than to the master of only a section of Nationalists. Therefore the so-called "National Convention" in Dublin has voted as it was instructed.

Very much, of course, turns on the strength of the Liberal party in the new Parliament: so much that the Nationalists have misgivings as to the most politic disposal of the Irish vote in England and Scotland. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman is as firmly pledged to Home Rule as a statesman well can be, but Lord Rosebery tells us that the Vice-Presidents of the Liberal League would not have taken office in a Cabinet that intended to bring in a Home Rule Bill. If the Liberals have a great majority—and they cannot possibly have this unless Mr. Redmond tells all the exiles of Erin to vote for them—they will be able to make half-hearted constitutional experiments in Ireland which the Nationalists must accept. But, if the Redmondites hold the balance, the Liberals being in a small majority, the Prime Minister will be inconveniently reminded of his pledges. Mr. Gladstone once practically shelved a measure which he had promised to put "in the forefront", and defended his conduct on the ground that a forefront was an extended line, and that it was unjustifiable to place one fragment of it in advance of another. But Sir Henry cannot carry things off with the air of Mr. Gladstone. Presumably he must tackle the English education question at once, and if this issue is made the leading one Irish Roman Catholics in England will be in doubt whether to vote for the plain interests of their Church or the tactical plans of Mr. Redmond. Parnell might possibly have been able to manipulate the Irish vote so as to ensure that the Liberal majority should exist, but be small. But Mr. Redmond has no such authority.

Thus he and the Prime Minister may be figured as engaged in an interesting game of cut-throat poker. Either must regard the other as a necessary but very untrustworthy ally. Mr. Redmond's recent speeches in Scotland have undoubtedly damaged the cause of Liberalism. The Dublin Convention has not made things easier for the new Government. It is true that the "Westminster Gazette" describes the Nationalist demands there formulated as "careful and moderate", but will such a description commend itself to the Vice-President of the Liberal League in the new Cabinet? We hope that it will be emphatically impressed upon the British electorate that the "careful and moderate" programme includes three remarkable demands—all adopted unanimously by the official Convention of the Nationalists. First, "that no new system of government in Ireland will be accepted as satisfactory, or will prove effective, except a Legislative Assembly freely elected and representative of the people, with power to makelaws for Ireland, and an Executive Government responsible to that assembly": in other words, a representative assembly with powers considerably greater than those of the Irish Parliament before the Union. And "the Irish National party cannot enter into alliance with or give permanent support to any English party or Government which does not make the question of granting such an assembly and executive to Ireland a cardinal point in the programme". The "Freeman's Journal" has amiably explained that the Liberals need not put forward the House of Lords as an excuse for shelving this "cardinal point". For nothing is easier than to bring in a Home Rule Bill at once and, on its defeat in the Lords, appeal to the country. Poor Sir Henry is to take in 1906 a course on which Mr. Gladstone could not venture in 1892! The second Nationalist demand is for "the abolition of landlordism in Ireland by means of a universal and compulsory system of sale of the landlords' interest". Mr. Asquith, in fact, is ordered to raise a hundred millions odd in his first Budget. The third important demand is for "the compulsory expropriation of all untenanted grass lands", or, in other words, the destruction of the Irish cattle industry at great expense to the Imperial exchequer. This is carefulness and moderation in excelsis.

English rulers should remember that there is no more

talk of "the union of hearts" in Ireland. The driving-power in Irish Nationalism has always come from two sources, agrarian discontent, and sentimental hatred of England. Agrarian discontent alone drew the farmers into the Home Rule ranks and gave Parnell a party of 85. The policy of the Unionist Government has done very much already to remove it. But the South African war produced a recrudescence of anti-English feeling which, while not in the least likely to shape itself into action, has effectually killed the pretence of real friendship between Nationalists and any section of patriotic Englishmen and Scotchmen. The agricultural labourers and the poorer inhabitants of the Irish towns have got nothing out of the Land Acts: their sole mental interest lies in the biased recapitulation of a history whose distant chapters do not make for reconciliation. There has been a more determined movement against enlistment in the Army and Navy during the last few years than in the really disturbed times of the 'eighties. Young enthusiasts are preaching the "Hungarian policy" of keeping away from Westminster and using the machinery of local government to manage Irish affairs in Ireland. These visionaries command few votes, and are much disliked by the members of Parliament. But the quarrel is over methods, not aims, and the parliamentary party cannot afford to let itself appear less "patriotic" than its revolutionary critics; whose programme is to stop all subscriptions to what they call the dishonest farce of maintaining at Westminster a party of representatives who, while disclaiming all loyalty to the Crown, take a formal oath of allegiance. It is therefore an economy to be an "Hungarian"—and many Irishmen think that the parliamentarians really have not of late done much to earn their stipends.

On the other hand, there are other new elements in Irish political life with which the Liberals might come to terms. Lord Dunraven and his friends may be able to suggest practical measures which the Government could adopt, though it must be remembered that alternatives for Home Rule will not command Nationalist support, while instalments of Home Rule ought to be banned alike by Liberal Imperialists and by the Irish Devolutionists. Mr. Russell's followers—whom we do not expect to find numerous even in Ulster—will doubtless be comparatively easily handled by Mr. Bryce. Then there is Mr. William O'Brien, who may carry a good many Munster seats, and whose present belief is that nothing good can be done for Ireland unless a concordat is reached between all the sections of Irishmen not absolutely committed to the present system of Government. He is engaged in showing with some success that the Redmondites—under the leading of Messrs. Sexton, Dillon and Davitt—treated Mr. Wyndham with gross treachery and thereby lost the chance of obtaining a Catholic University and securing various important measures of practical reform. Mr. O'Brien may give the Liberals some help, but he is as ardent a Home Ruler as ever, and in the House his followers will vote straight with the Redmondites on most occasions, in spite of their annoyance at the discreditable packing of the so-called "National" Convention in Dublin.

Will the Government shelve Home Rule in favour of a University Bill? If so, the priests will make the Nationalists come to heel. We trust that Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman will undertake the task which our own party should have accomplished, but the Liberals burnt their fingers badly over this question in 1870, and will find it hard to reconcile any such measure with their English educational policy. It Mr. Redmond will keep quiet they may do some useful work on the labourers' question and in Irish primary education. The personnel of the new Irish administration is not very promising. Since Liberal speakers are openly talking of "MacDonnellism", we presume that Sir Antony MacDonnell is less than ever to be an ordinary Civil Servant, and if he is recognised as the predominant partner in Dublin Castle he will find it very difficult to do his administrative duty and retain his popularity. The real danger is that a Liberal Government unable to carry heroic Irish measures will try to please the Nationalists by flabby administration.

The United Irish League, in short, may be allowed to do what it likes, terrorise and boycott. Actual outrage is foreign to its policy, but under a weak central government it could in many ways supplant the ordinary law. Mr. Bryce, of course, may be able to administer decently, but if his colleagues are at the mercy of Nationalist critics he will regret the peaceful Duchy of Lancaster. Mr. Long has left things in very good order: his last official act showed that firm straightforward administration is, as we have always maintained, perfectly compatible with a generous policy of industrial development. He will be really missed. But as regards the executive the worst feature in the change of Government is that the conduct of the Department of Agriculture will pass from the hands of Sir Horace Plunkett.

SEPARATISM IN SPAIN.

RECENT events in Spain which led to the downfall of the Liberal Government of Señor Montero Rios are of more significance than can usually be ascribed to the changes of ephemeral Spanish Ministries. They suggest that the army is about to resume a rôle it has often played in the past, and subordinate the civil power to the will of the military leaders. If the officers who organised the disturbances which took place in Cataluña during November had had one energetic and unscrupulous leader, a Prim, Narvaez, or Espartero, to head their movement the constitutional monarchy might have fallen, and a military era of pronunciamientos inaugurated such as marked the troubled reign of Isabel II. The occasion that has brought the army once more to the front, and put the civil power already under a restraint hardly compatible with constitutionalism is the Separatist movement in Cataluña. In the Basque Provinces and Cataluña, always discontented parts of the Spanish kingdom, a political party of Separatists has been long growing who desire the dismemberment of Spain and the proclamation of an independent Cataluña, a free Vizcaya. This movement has to be distinguished from the Regionalist movement which has strictly legal aims and has partisans throughout the peninsula. Separatism is a criminal and treasonable programme; and it has grown up as the result of the central maladministration from Madrid. Government after Government, both Conservative and Liberal, has allowed Separatism to collect its forces, and it has grown in numbers and boldness. For some months it has been carrying on its projects with unbounded audacity, and its newspapers have been insulting Spain and its army. The Government was afraid of dealing with the Separatist problem, and it had tolerated these insults directed at the country and the army without taking suitable measures to restrain the license that has been spreading. Naturally the army in Cataluña, and especially the garrison in Barcelona, chafed and raged at these insults, and at last they took the matter into their own hands and determined to avenge at once their personal grievances and the national honour. Their first act was the affair of 25 November last at Barcelona. A number of officers armed with sabres and axes broke into the editorial offices of two Separatist papers, destroyed the printing-machines, threw the furniture and papers into the street and burnt them in an immense bonfire. It appears probable that the Government had information of what was about to happen. The local, civil and military authorities are directly dependent upon the central authorities in Madrid, and if the Government had either not been wanting in inclination or the power to check this dangerous outbreak it might have been prevented. The danger is obvious of allowing the army to be judge and executioner on its own behalf in such a matter and to set aside the civil power instead of acting under its direction and orders. The indulgence of the Government either through fear or favour was evident, and it produced dissatisfaction everywhere in Spain. The Government had first shown itself unwilling or incapable in dealing with the Separatists, and then it showed the same indecision and weakness in punishing the insubordination and indiscipline of the army.

If the Separatists were to be punished it was clearly not for the military to take the law into their own hands. The fact that they have done so, and that there is not the least likelihood that the officers will be tried by court-martial, suggests the predominance of the military over the civil authorities. Subsequent events do more than suggest this inference. Since the outbreak at Barcelona the army has clamoured for the punishment of the Separatists; it has interfered with the freedom of vote and speech in the Cortes, and to it was due the downfall of the Liberal Government. It was impossible to punish the officers who planned and carried out the affair at Barcelona. To attempt to do so would have brought on an uprising of all the garrisons in the Peninsula and the establishment of a military government. What has happened is distinct proof that this would be the result. It is the Separatists who are to be punished not the army, which has insisted on the establishment of martial law in Cataluña and the suspension of constitutional guarantees in Barcelona. This decision was taken under military pressure on the speeches and votes of the deputies. On the day of the final voting in the Cortes a military coup d'état was feared and it was only averted by the passing of the law introducing martial law in Barcelona. If the civil government had been free from this dictation it would not, at the moment when it had the right to insist on the punishment of the military outbreak, have consented to concede the demands of the offenders by further abrogating civil law in Cataluña. Señor Montero Rios was compelled to pass the law not on his own initiative but obedient to directions from the Palace and the military chiefs; and nothing remained for him after that but to resign his office. For the moment this has saved the situation, but only at the cost of the reappearance of an old and dangerous element in Spanish politics. Between the civil government and the military King Alfonso has had a most difficult part to play, and he has played it with great prudence. He has not openly upheld the army or the era of militarism would have straightway begun. Had he supported the demand for the punishment of the perpetrators of the Barcelona raid, this would have set the military authorities in open antagonism to the civil; and the result in all probability would have been the supersession of the civil government by the government of the army. In the circumstances he took the wisest and the most prudent course. The proclamation of martial law, though it has been decided on by the civil power under military compulsion, seems to be required by the state of Cataluña. Strict measures ought to have been taken before; and the unfortunate thing is that the neglect of this precaution is responsible for the dictation to which the civil power has now had to submit, and for a greater restriction of liberty in Cataluña than might otherwise have been necessary. It is in fact the neglect and weakness and the want of energy of the civil power which have brought upon Spain the imminent danger of military interference in her government.

THE CITY.

MONEY became dearer immediately after the continuation of the Bank rate at 4, but it had no effect on markets, as it is recognised that there is nothing like stringency, and that the rise in the discount rate was only a passing incident. The feature of the week has been the sensational rise in Union Pacifics from 139 to 150. Of course everybody knows that on intrinsic merits Unions are worth at least 180, as their last annual statement shows that they are earning 11½ per cent. on their common stock, though they are only paying 5 per cent. Besides this the Union Pacific Company owns the greater part of the Southern Pacific capital, which for the last two years has been going to pay a dividend but has not. The present violent rise in Unions is based on the conviction that the Southern Pacific is at last going to distribute a dividend of 2 or 3 per cent., and that in consequence Union Pacifics will be put on a 6 per cent. basis very shortly. The rise has been worked by a pool, and the man who follows a pool takes his life in his hands, for you never know when the insiders are

going to sell. When they do, intrinsic value counts for very little; and we may remind our readers that the account before last Unions made up at 133. Another stock in which we may look for a sensational rise in the course of the next few weeks or months is Canadian Pacifics, which are bound, so they say, for 220, which is quite possible, as the increase in traffic receipts is enormous, and putting aside their lands this company might easily pay 10 per cent. But indeed the whole market for American rails is very good, as the worst of the money squeeze is over, trade in the States is booming, and it is in vain that bankers and brokers cry caution to their clients in such times. We repeat our opinion expressed last week that Baltimore and Ohios are one of the best purchases in the market. The shares of a trunk line already paying 5 per cent. are worth 125, and when they are earning 14 per cent. and have besides huge profits out of Readings, there is no reason why B. and O.'s should not have a big rise. The only thing against them is that they are favourites in Berlin, and of course any financial upset in Germany owing to Russian troubles might cause the selling of Baltimores. But we are convinced that there will be no trouble in Berlin, because in the first place the Russian coupons will be met in January, and because secondly German financiers have had ample time to take precautionary measures. Another stock in the Yankee market of which great things are predicted is Steel Preferred and Common. The former has risen during the week from 106½ to 108½, and the Commons have again passed the Rubicon of 40. Men, not otherwise deranged in their intellect, and with some opportunity of knowing, have been heard to maintain that Steel Commons will touch par by the month of May. Eries are also tipped for 60: there's "something on in Eries"; such is the gossip of the street: what the something is we do not profess to know, unless it is the old story of retiring the Preference stock. Another strong market has been that of Argentine rails, Buenos Ayres and Rosarios, Entre Rios, Buenos Ayres and Pacifics and Argentine Great Westerns all marking gains of from 1 to 5 points. This strength is partly due to the splendid traffic returns and the good crop prospects of the current year, and partly to the fact that this market is outside the sphere of Russian disturbance. Argentine Great Westerns were put up five points on a definite statement in one of the financial papers that the contract for the amalgamation of this line with the Buenos Ayres and Pacific had been signed. This we have very good reason for saying is a pure invention. The chairman, Mr. J. W. Philipps M.P., told the shareholders that such a scheme would take about a year to put through. Whilst we are writing of the Argentine, we may as well record the rise of Cédulas to over 27, it being now certain that they will touch 30.

English railways have been perfectly uninteresting, with a downward tendency, London and North-Westerns having fallen 1½. We have no belief in this market for purposes of speculation.

Outside railway markets, Russian Fours have fallen 1½ to 81, and Japanese have been practically stationary. Amongst mining and speculative shares an unpleasant feature has been the fall of Pekins to 15½. The report was excellent, but it was not gushing, and a rumour has been put about that the Chinese Government intended to cancel the concessions of the Pekin Syndicate. This of course is pure rubbish, and it is to be hoped that at the annual meeting next week the chairman will dissipate these foolish fears, and restore confidence in the market.

In the Kaffir market the "undertone" is said to be strong, which means that if there is no buying there is at least no selling. The market for diamond shares is always a little independent of that for gold shares, and in this section there has been a disquieting fall in Premier Deferred which at one time fell to 11½ and then recovered to 12. Some nasty things are being said about the management of this concern. It is not only that the dividend on the Deferred has been passed and the money put into new plant: but the production of stones has recently been of poor quality. Gossip will have it that there is a design on the part of certain operators to get the Deferred shares down to 10, at which price they would certainly be worth buying.

INSURANCE.

THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN LIFE OFFICES.

THE future of each of the three great American Life insurance companies depends to a great extent upon the action that is taken within the next few weeks. The majority of the stock of the Equitable of the United States has been transferred from Mr. Hyde to Mr. Ryan. The price paid was such as to yield interest at the rate of only 2s. 6d. per cent. per annum, and unless the purchase is to be regarded as some novel kind of philanthropy some indirect benefit from the control must be assumed as the motive for the purchase. The transaction was not accompanied without threats by a legislator that legislation adverse to the insurance companies would be introduced unless he were allowed to participate in the purchase. The process of reform has commenced with an ugly story which promises none too well for the future of the society. Another mistake has been made by appointing Mr. Paul Morton president of the Equitable. Mr. Roosevelt scarcely seems to have found him a desirable member of the Government and he suffers from the fatal objection that he knows nothing of insurance affairs. It is quite a mistake to suppose that the one thing needful for the American companies is merely honest management; honesty is essential but capacity is equally necessary. Far more harm will be done to the policy-holders by the control of the companies being in the hands of men who are ignorant of practical insurance work than has resulted from the scandals which have existed in the past. Incompetence may well cost the policy-holders 2s. or 2s. 6d. out of every £1 paid for premiums, while it is doubtful if dishonesty has cost them 6d. in the pound.

The President of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York has recently resigned his position, and Mr. Peabody has been elected in his place. Mr. McCurdy's connexion of forty-five years has been severed in circumstances which everyone must regret, and we can well afford to lay stress upon the good work he has done for the Mutual, rather than blame him for attempting to influence legislation and permitting extravagant expenditure. The evidence given before the Legislative Committee shows that while the Mutual, in common with other companies, paid money to legislators and to party funds, it was entirely free from the scandalous dealings in regard to investments which existed elsewhere, and its future is full of great possibilities if the right man has been appointed to succeed Mr. McCurdy. For the position of president of a company like the Mutual, a strong man of proved capacity is absolutely essential. We do not feel by any means sure that the best choice has been made. Mr. Peabody will doubtless take care that the mal-practices of the past are not repeated, but the really important thing for the Mutual is that the expenditure should be reduced without the efficiency of management being impaired. The high salaries paid to Mr. McCurdy and his son, and other expenditure to which exception has been taken, are relatively unimportant to the shareholders from a financial point of view, but the commission and ordinary expenses of management need to be greatly reduced if the Mutual is to achieve the success which is possible under adequate control.

The general manager of the company, Mr. R. H. McCurdy, has also resigned, and it is possible that the appointment of a competent man to fill his place might be productive of good results if the new president trusted him to manage the company. If a lawyer, with little knowledge of practical insurance, is to be the effective manager, then the outlook for the company is not very promising. Nothing would please the British policy-holders of the Mutual better than to see Mr. D. C. Haldeman, the general manager for the United Kingdom, made the general manager of the company. He introduced the Mutual to this country eighteen years ago, and evidence was recently given that the business here was of better quality and more economically managed than in any other part of the world. He has won the confidence not only of his own policy-holders, but of the managers of British insurance

offices as well, and if he could continue in New York the successful management on sound lines which has characterised his work here the company would gain greatly by the change.

A similar problem will confront the New York Life in the near future. The resignation of Mr. McCall and of Mr. Perkins is inevitable. It is clear that a merely respectable figurehead is not the man that is needed. Honesty is relatively common, capacity exceedingly scarce, and these two qualities, combined with full knowledge of insurance, are essential for the president of any one of the three companies.

THE JEW IN RUSSIA.

POLAND has for centuries been the headquarters of the proletarian Jews of the world. They sought refuge in that country when flying from persecution in Hungary, Moravia, and even after the expulsion of 1292 in England. King Kozimir the Great, in the fourteenth century, under the influence of his beautiful Jewish mistress, Esther, threw open to her co-religionists the trading centre gates of his provinces, and these since that day have become the Ghetto of Europe. At the partition of Poland in the last century, Russia found her portion of the country largely populated by Jews. Manufacturing progress and general industrial growth, with the proximity of an extensive seaboard for an outlet, soon attracted a certain class of Israelites to the Vistula provinces of Russia, whither they flowed in a constant stream. Polish Jews are prolific beyond record, and here for a hundred years these middlemen traders and hard bargainers have multiplied—as no other people on earth. Over-population and competition in their ranks gradually made the surplus stock of these Polish and Baltic-province Jews migrate into Southern Russia. The rapid expansion of Odessa, Taganrog and other Black Sea ports, and the growing prosperity of the neighbouring manufacturing and agricultural areas gave a good field of operations for the enterprising Hebrew traders.

Here the ready-money Jew found a profitable and comparatively safe field for his speculative energies. The towns offered splendid opportunities for the pawnbroker, and for the money-changer, who soon superseded the local banking establishments, supplying a much-needed cheque circulating system and handy bureaux for the conversion of paper notes into coin. The assiduous, self-denying Jew soon drove out the improvident haphazard Russian and established himself as a successful, grasping monopolist in these comparatively safe and lucrative trades. In the villages the same process of Jewish exploitation of the peasants as of the workmen and small traders of the towns went on, only upon a much larger scale. The credulous, listless peasant, ever struggling from hand to mouth, is always in the hands of the Jews, because the Jews are the money-lenders—formerly they had the monopoly of the village gin-shops in their hands as well. The Jew drains the life-blood from the peasant down to the last drop. The Jew exploits all the movable property that the peasant has to dispose of to enable him to meet his redemption taxes, and with the temptation of ready money obtains a mortgage on the rest, from the corn that is just sprouting out of the ground to the unborn calf of the only cow in the shed. The peasant of the village and the workman and small tradesman of the town, in their turn revenge themselves when the occasion presents itself, by massacring the Jews. Besides, as a writer drolly puts it, the peasant adds, "You killed our Lord," thinking perhaps the event was quite recent.

It is from this class of middlemen and sweaters, hardened by adversity and official reprisals, resolved to make money, and doing it easily out of the fortunes or misfortunes of ignorant hardworking clients, that we must draw our typical Jew in Russia—the worst kind of Jew, perhaps, in any part of the world. This is the kind of Jew, prolific and ubiquitous, that has been the cause of so much trouble to the Russian Government during the last and the present reigns; the subject of

universal resentment and confusion; the victim of the revolting outrages that have taken place during the opening of the Russian floodgates of passion, hatred and merciless retaliation.

There is another class of Jew in Russia which is the perpetual *bête noire* of the Government, and with the revolutionary leaders of the proletariat section forms one of the worst elements in the perpetration of atrocities. It is the University Jew student, the literary adventurer who has steeped his mind in Western democratic, doctrinaire literature till it is aflame with schemes for the political enfranchisement of the stoical, unsophisticated peasant, who does not want enfranchisement. The street murders, the plundering and devastation, which have darkened the pages of Russian national life for the past month or two, are in a great measure the fruit of the activity of this Jew-revolutionary propagandist. Encouraged and sustained as they are by moral and material support from nearly every civilised country in the world, but chiefly from England and the United States, these Jewish ringleaders of the extreme revolutionaries are the most dangerous "political philanthropists" in Russia.

I would not of course condemn the bulk of the six million Jewish population of Russia. My experience, gained during a very long residence in the country, enables me to bear witness that the superior, intellectual, and cultured portion of the Jews in Russia is as loyal as any of the Tsar's subjects, and as excellent citizens as any to be found in other countries. The foreign press and authors of books about Russia have been particularly zealous lately in admonishing the Tsar's Government how it should deal with the Jewish question. Much public indignation has been expended on the subject, and unfounded accusations against Russian officialdom and soldiery have been scattered broadcast. Yet it is rare to find among those passing such sweeping judgments anyone who possesses specific knowledge of the singularly complicated problem. As an instance, I may be permitted to quote an esteemed writer on the subject, M. Victor Bérard, a translation of whose book on "Czarism" has recently been published.* He has undertaken the gigantic task of writing comprehensively on the Russian Empire in a book of some 290 pages, printed in bold type, with an ample margin. Judging from the contents of the book I am compelled to assume that the writer has confined his research on so important, not to say, abstruse a subject to foreign sources of information, German publications, articles in French periodicals, and translations of Russian authors: little or nothing is derived from personal observation. Nor does he, I am bound to say, give any indication of first-hand knowledge of either Russian history or the Russian people. M. Bérard tells us that the Russian Government, in its conceit, fancies itself rich enough in the number and devotion of its own people to despise the labour and loyalty of its cultivated Jewish population. In an old nation, in an over-peopled and over-civilised country, there might be some excuse for the Anti-Semitism of the demagogues and the rabble, if the Jews of foreign extraction were encroaching on the economic and liberal professions already crowded by native candidates. But in Russia! "Hardly a man there but is a grandson or great-grandson of a foreign subject." The real Russian, according to M. Bérard, finds his only pleasure in the ennobling pursuit of either tilling the earth or drawing the sword.

There are at least two sides to the highly problematic Jewish question in Russia. The Tsar, the Russian Government (leaving out the greatly maligned Grand Dukes!) and, finally, the Russian people, must surely be brutal by nature and wantonly cruel, if we are to regard them as many amongst us prefer to depict them. But, a people whose language is one of the noblest on the earth, whose folk-lore and music are the richest and most pathetic, whose individual charity and hospitality are the most sincere and self-sacrificing, surely such a people cannot be any other than great, making a great nation with a great

future before it. Russia is the youngest of all the European nations, and as such deserves more consideration and a great deal more sympathy in her present difficulties than the Anglo-Saxon world has bestowed upon her. Nobody who reads the papers would attempt to deny that the brutal assaults and atrocious acts of vandalism that have been taking place for the last six weeks in Poland and Southern Russia are chiefly the outcome of Russia's antiquated form of government. But since the present Government has solemnly determined to abandon the application of the ancient measures of repression; to set aside the application of criminal weapons, it is time the aiders and abettors abroad of the leaders of revolt ceased sending out propagandas and bombs to the Russian Jew-revolutionaries. The proletarian Jew in Russia, labouring by the sweat of his brow, has to suffer a heavy penalty indeed, as we see, for the political blunders and economic recklessness of the enlightened upper crust of his co-religionists.

ALEXANDER KINLOCH.

A VAPID PLAY.

I WILL not pretend to have been gladdened by my visit to the Haymarket. Here is one of the most distinguished theatres in London; and here is Mr. Harrison, one of our acutest managers; and here, at Mr. Harrison's disposal, is Mr. Hawtrey, perhaps our best comedian; and yet, apparently, Mr. Harrison can find nothing better to put up, nothing less difficult for me to put up with, than a mediocre adaptation of a third-rate Parisian comedy. This is humiliating. The one ray of light is shed by the very fact of the humiliation. In the 'eighties no one would have blushed. The thing would have been taken as a matter of course. The consciousness of having acquired ideals is some solace for not finding them realised.

In "The Indecision of Mr. Kingsbury", from start to finish, there is not one moment of similitude to life. The characters are purely diagrammatic, and are not even amusing diagrams. Such fun as there may once have been in them has long since been obliterated by constant use of them on the stage. Never for one instant does the adapter give token that either he or the original author has ever for one instant observed anything in the actual world. One of the characters is a young man on the eve of a political career. The adapter knows, of course, that there is such a thing as politics in England. He has seen various plays in which there was a political background. He has seen, may be, the Leader of the Opposition, infatuated by a beauteous foreign adventuress, steal a secret treaty from the *escritoire* of the Secretary for Foreign Affairs. He has heard, too, on the stage the echoes of questions that were burning ones in the time of Lord John Russell. Let it suffice him to echo such echoes. Why should he trouble to look at a daily newspaper, or to seek oral information from one of those people who are dull enough to be interested in such a dull thing as politics? And so the young politician in this play is by an elder man accused of being "an odious democrat". To which he sharply replies by asking whether his interlocutor agrees that the people ought to be governed in such a way as shall be most conducive to the people's good. "Certainly", says the interlocutor. The young man then declares that the people must be the best judge of what is good for them. The interlocutor maintains that they are not. The discussion then drops. Of course, I do not contend that a serious discussion of modern politics was necessary to our enjoyment of the play. Only, as politics are introduced, it does seem to me rather a pity that the adapter cannot make his characters say something—something, too, a trifle less elementary—about some such thing as Imperialism, or Socialism, or any other of the many subjects of political discussion in the twentieth century. I am afraid he will call me "an odious democrat". He himself, certainly, is a staunch member of what used to be (and, he probably thinks, still is) called "the stupid party". He will brook no innovation in dramaturgy. He would keep intact the glorious theatrical heritage of

* "The Russian Empire" and "Czarism." By Victor Bérard. Translated by G. M. Davies and G. O. Pope. London: Nutt. 1905.

our forefathers. He does not spare us even the comic Frenchman of the loose principles and the broken English. Nay, the better to ensure this survival, he plays the part himself. But where is the flat-brimmed hat, the flowing cravat, the moustache waxed in the manner of Louis Napoleon? Appearing in clothes of the latest English fashion, and made up to look really very like a contemporary Frenchman, Mr. Cosmo Gordon Lennox is strangely untrue to his conservative intentions. Egomet, I think he ought even to have insisted that Mr. Hawtrey, as Mr. Kingsbury, should wear Dundreary whiskers and peg-top trousers. Nor do I conceive that Mr. Hawtrey would have been unwilling. That he consented to play the part assigned to him is evidence of an infinite submissiveness.

He knew that he was in the prime of life, and that he could not, by taking thought, change himself into a stripling. He must have known, also, that only by a man of extreme youth could the part of Mr. Kingsbury be played appropriately. The whole play depends on the fact that Mr. Kingsbury is extremely young. His mother wishes him to marry; but, as he says, he is "not ripe for marriage". He wishes to have a fling. Flings, possible on the French stage, are impossible on the British. Mr. Kingsbury's wild oats consist, therefore, of taking a house in Park Lane, and marrying a lady of rather doubtful reputation who has thrown herself at his head, and whom, in virtue of his youth, he has for a long time been afraid to kiss. On the British stage, even retrospective flings are eyed askance; and it turns out that there was no real cause for gossip against this lady. It is undeniable, though, that she has a taste for frivolous entertainments. And thus we come to the time-honoured situation of the husband imagining that his wife does not love him, and refusing to show her the tenderness for which she pines. He imagines that she is fascinated by the Frenchman, whose advances she really rejects with scorn. When, as was bound to happen, his elderly aunt and uncle arrive from the country, and are scandalised by the singing of coon songs and the dancing of cake-walks under his roof, and, when, as was also bound to happen, they urge him to separate from his wife, he rather inclines to their view of the matter, and goes to the country to think things over. And indeed, it does seem as if Mrs. Kingsbury had eloped on the Frenchman's motor. But she hasn't really. And . . . I said that the play was rapidly conventional "from start to finish." I ought not to have said that. I did not stay for the "finish". When the curtain fell on the third act, I blinked, stretched myself, gathered up my coat and hat, and went forth into the night. All invisible the stars; but there were the chimney-pots, and such-like things, which, being real, brought balm to the soul of me.

I do not believe that Mr. Harrison, who is so acute, intends to produce any more twaddle of this kind in his theatre. The day for it is past. But why has Mr. Harrison not yet gone over to the winning side? He does not imagine that the thousands of people who, at the Court Theatre, have been laughing with all their lung-power at the vital comedies of Mr. Shaw, and rejoicing in them whole-heartedly as a revelation of what may be achieved through dramatic form, will not yawn away from such stuff as "The Indecision of Mr. Kingsbury". And these are the people who will soon be in a majority. Of course, there will always be room for twaddle in the theatre. But it must be live and native twaddle. And, even so, Mr. Harrison ought to leave it to inferior theatres. Mr. Shaw himself may, for aught I know, be bound hand and foot to the Court Theatre. But how about such writers as Mr. Street and Mr. Hankin, each of whom, within the past year, has had an excellent comedy produced on trial? I don't say that Mr. Harrison would make a fresh fortune out of either of these gentlemen. But there is the chance that he might. And he certainly would not lose so much money as he certainly will if he lags behind with lifeless adaptations. I am sure he is not intending to lag.

Not only for hints in choice of plays, but also for hints in their production, ought Mr. Harrison to visit the Court Theatre. At the Haymarket, seemingly, every member of the cast is allowed to act according to

his or her own sweet will. There is no attempt at harmony. Miss Nina Boucicault, having emotional power, is allowed to treat her part as one of poignant tragedy. Mr. Hawtrey, of course, is allowed to be quiet, calm: it would be useless to attempt to make him be otherwise, even if it were well that he should be otherwise. But why should Mr. Cosmo Lennox be allowed to make, in contrast, such a terrific noise whenever he appears on the scene, and never for an instant stand still? And why should Mr. Holman Clark be allowed to make himself up as a quite impossible monster and behave accordingly? In itself, his performance is ingenious and amusing. But it is quite out of relation to any other performance in the play. And so are the other performances.

MAX BEERBOHM.

SIR EDWARD ELGAR ON PROGRAMME MUSIC.

EVERY dog has its day. Sir Edward Elgar is having quite a brilliant one. After many years of obscurity he flashed out on an unsuspecting public; and now in a comparatively short space of time he has been knighted or baroneted, and been to America and made professor of music in Birmingham University. As professor he has to give lectures; and the first of these, delivered some little time back, when I could not notice it here, was certainly calculated to arouse curiosity as to Sir Edward's meaning and his state of mind. His subject was nominally the third symphony of Brahms—not a very promising one—but he seized the opportunity of going into the old question of descriptive and absolute music. He condemned all programme music and declared that music at its best meant nothing and was intended only to arouse certain emotions in individual minds. This provoked Mr. Ernest Newman to send a vigorous reply to a Manchester paper. He points out that Sir Edward Elgar has practically written nothing but programme, descriptive music; and that a great quantity of the music of the masters, though without titles or description, is simply programme music. The fact is Sir Edward's assertion was false and calculated to take away our attention from the main point with regard to programme music. That sort of music always has been written and will continue always to be written, but musicians and critics are likely to go on for a long time disputing as to what subjects should or should not be selected for musical illustration. Of course they will not settle the matter. The matter will never be settled. Or rather, each creative artist will settle it in his own way, which is what creative artists have a trick of doing with artistic problems while critics and lecturers write and chatter. Still, if we must write and chatter we may as well do it on the least useless of lines. Sir Edward Elgar's generalisations are worse than useless.

The bulk of the music written since Haydn is certainly programme music. Of course that kind of thing was done long before Haydn, but I am thinking less of avowed "tone-paintings" such as the Biblical sonatas than of pieces without any title. We know these to be programme pieces because all the composers have told us so. Haydn used to stimulate his invention with little romances; Beethoven with his "Thus fate knocks at the door", his Pastoral and choral symphonies, his overtures, some movements in the quartets were merely writing programme music, and then we have his word for it that he always worked to a story; Mendelssohn's best style is in his descriptive overtures—what did he compose to match the "Hebrides" or "Midsummer Night's Dream"? Then came Liszt and Berlioz the professed writers of symphonic poems and the mischief began. I say mischief advisedly. Berlioz and Liszt and their followers sinned against a fundamental law of art. The earlier men had confined themselves to expressions of feeling, or to securing a definite atmosphere, with occasional realistic touches to give vividness to the picture. (By realistic touches I do not mean such freaks of fancy as the donkey in the "Midsummer Night's Dream" or the cuckoo in the Pastoral symphony, but such strokes as the oboe sounding, as Wagner pointed out, like a sea-wind moaning over a

grey sea.) So much music can do : no other art can produce exactly the same colour, atmosphere and emotion. Then Berlioz and Liszt started to transgress the law. They tried to get by means of music effects more simply and easily got in another medium. No longer content with emotion, colour, atmosphere, they tried to depict what can only be called arbitrary acts—acts unrelated to anything fundamental in nature or human nature. There is the "Quixote" of Richard Strauss, for instance : where Beethoven, or perhaps rather Weber, might have given us a sense of the man's grotesque madness, Strauss tries to give us photographic portraits of Quixote and Sancho, labelling his themes like a child who writes beneath a drawing "This is a horse".

Wagner knew better ; Brahms knew better. Brahms kept silence for the most part about his intentions ; Wagner, wanting to place his pictures before us with the utmost distinctness, went to the stage, thus relieving the music of a load it is not made to carry. Liszt and Berlioz went on the way of error and Strauss has followed them. Strauss indeed has been more foolish than they, taking the least sensible of stories as his basis, and, as I had occasion to remark some time back, spoiling the music for the sake of a stupid story and the story for the sake of the bad music. Elgar himself has not gone nearly so far in his "Cockaigne" suite, though he went dangerously far in the Enigma variations.

It is a significant fact that the writers of symphonic poems have been and are the least of the theme-writers : or perhaps it is because of the lack of inventiveness that they take to excessively descriptive music and seem satisfied that they have depicted things they have not depicted at all. They do not feel how blurred their melodies are, how inexpressive—if they did they would never pass them. Wagner could write great picturesque subjects, often quite stereoscopic in their sharpness, yet he would not trust to his music alone.

Sir Edward Elgar should have pointed out what music can do and what it cannot do. To tell us that it is wrong to think of any story whatever when listening to a symphony of Beethoven because possibly Beethoven thought of something else—this is idle : at worst there is no harm done, and if we are really musical and our feelings are right we shall not get far wrong. On the other hand, to ask any sane creature to visualise Don Quixote on the strength of Strauss' labelled themes is a little too much. It is a question of the subject chosen. Wagner, with his stage, could do what he liked ; but if a composer has no genius for the stage, then he must reject all subjects that can only be made effective on the stage. He must exercise the same artistic discretion as the poet, or painter, or sculptor. I fancy that Wagner has more to do than Berlioz or Liszt with the present craze for symphonic poems and descriptive music generally. Wagner's theatrical effects are so gorgeous that we want to run off and do the same, forgetting that the allowances made for Wagner's music in the concert-room will not be made for us. But there is a difference between rejecting the music which attempts to say too much and music which is meaningless, empty. This is the sort of music Sir Edward Elgar said he liked best ; and I don't believe him. The next time he lectures he will have to take more pains and say what he really thinks.

JOHN F. RUNCIMAN.

MAN AND MARVELS.

SIR OLIVER LODGE'S address to the Psychical Society on Monday night on "The Scientific Attitude towards Marvels" raises a question which to some people has given considerable uneasiness. It is strange at first sight that there should be any apprehension in an age full of the marvels of science lest the sense of the marvellous should become atrophied and at last disappear. But it is quite true that a good deal of what used to be the marvellous has been dispossessed from its hold over the imaginations of men ; and the process has gone on coincidentally with and in proportion to the advances of the definite knowledge which we call scientific. Must there not arrive a time, therefore, it is

asked, when either we shall be convinced we know all our faculties are competent to learn, or, while admitting a province behind the veil, decline to allow our imagination to dwell upon it as not capable of scientific demonstration? If we could ever be so far practically determined by the philosophy of agnosticism or positivism, whichever we may prefer to call it, the graciousness of poetry would be gone and the mysteries of religion pass into the region of the fairy tale. Fortunately however it does not seem that man is built in this way. It is a curious fact that the great religious or ethical systems such as Buddhism or Confucianism in whatever country they are found never have succeeded in eliminating marvels from the worship and the thoughts of the people, though this popular religion is logically altogether inconsistent with the principles laid down by the sages. They worship deities and imagine hells and heavens which are excluded from the pure system itself. It might be the same with science ; and so far possibly it has neither blunted our curiosity and wonder in the material marvels which it announces from time to time, nor has made us less eager to dwell in imagination on the mysteries it suggests, though it has no light to throw upon them. Yet as one practical invention after another has been established in ordinary business—rapid communication by railway, or telegraph or telephone, and all the marvels of applied electricity—our wonderment has so far diminished that we should hardly hail anything new with the astonishment of our predecessors at the achievements of the early steam-engines. There has been a decrescendo of wonder as these inventions have displayed themselves one after the other until the apparently most mysterious and wonderful of all, the transmission of wireless messages, has come upon us with rather blasé effect. In these cases increase of appetite has not grown by what it has fed on, and we may assert that the next mechanical wonder has its marvel already discounted in advance.

And yet there is an element in these material appliances of science which encourages instead of depressing the faculty for the marvellous. In one view they are becoming daily more commonplace ; in another they haunt us with a perpetual mystery of the unseen. Our mechanical inventions have steadily advanced from utilising the ordinary forces of nature—the water, the air, the forces of ordinary combustion, or animal power—from which to the ordinary mind familiarity has long banished the susceptibility to their intrinsic marvellousness. All these things are plain and visible to the five senses. Now our traction, our lighting, our communications, all depend on electricity and what electricity is no man knoweth, has ever seen it or has a conception of anything but its laws and effects. The scientific man refers these effects to the ether, which is carrying the unknown a step still further back ; he resolves the matter of the ether which seems to require no explanation to us, as we feel it in every fibre of our being, into that same invisible, intangible, universal ocean of ether. This is wonder enough but of an entirely different order from that in the mind of the primitive man who sees God in the clouds and hears Him in the wind. Do we along with wonder get admiration, that attendant but not necessary attendant on wonder, which has by far the greater intellectual and moral value? (We do not know that as yet any poetic effects have been got out of the ether ; and yet no poet or imaginative man could be insensitive to its suggestiveness. The higher physics and the higher mathematics are regions of imagination but their truths cannot be expressed in terms of human emotion ; and if the ordinary man catches a glimpse and wonders, we do not see on what point he is to fix his admiration. Science has led man into a region where, grand though his conceptions may be, they are sterilised. It is ever increasing our wonder ; but unless we have beforehand some definite religious conception of a divine person to which to refer its disclosures it becomes a mere catalogue of marvels, and cannot of itself supply the materials for human admiration on which worship depends. In spite of the grandeur of its conceptions, which become more striking at every stage, science, as some of its professors have represented it, would result in impoverishing the

imaginative life by which we live. Some of those who have carried science to what they believed to be its logical materialistic conclusions have been conscious of this, and they have endeavoured to found on them a philosophy of the true, the good and the beautiful. They wanted, if we may so put it, to extract from it human emotions. The effort has not been successful and most scientific men do not expect science to provide any antidote against its own bane.

There seems a probability then that the future marvels of science may fall on minds that have lost much of the sense of wonder, and have found the higher element of admiration unministered to. This indifference would have serious results if it should ever happen to us to take science as the criterion of all our beliefs and emotions as to our present and future life. Nil admirari, taken in the meaning of a man finding no reason for admiration and joyous expectation in whatever he may learn of himself or nature, would be as ominous a motto for a society as can be imagined. Such a state of feeling would be an unmistakable symptom of decay; a symptom that has been found in societies of the past, not induced indeed by what we know as science, but by secular learning and philosophy that have undermined mythologies and religions; and it is quite reasonable to suppose that science in one sense might act as an equally powerful solvent. At present orthodox science concerns itself with inquiries persistently directed on the lines of the wonders we have mentioned which, after a time, may cease to pique curiosity or imagination because they tend to become more remote from ordinary human comprehension. Yet there are movements in scientific thought which may bring it more closely in touch with the knowledge and interests of the ordinary mind. The phenomena of spiritualism, such as the alleged possible apparition of the dead, and communication between the dead and the living; the possibility of telepathy, which would establish communication between people at a distance without visible media; the movement of material objects without physical contact; and other such marvels raise anew a whole class of questions in which man has never lost his interest so long as they have remained vague and undemonstrated, and scope has been left to the imagination. But suppose science ultimately succeeded in giving an explanation which would enclose in the field of nature what has hitherto been regarded as supernatural, what then would be the effect of this positivism on the human imagination? It would seem to rob us of the last department of the unknown in which the human mind could expatiate at large and indulge itself in poetry and romance. To do this seems necessary; and man must retain the feeling of the inexplicable which is more beneficial to him than if all knowledge were his. The possession of a body of definite knowledge seems less desirable to man as an intellectual and moral being than the existence of an indefinite region where truth remains hid but in which he has the desire to explore for possible discoveries. We cannot say if there may be this undesirable finality about science. It is probable enough that a stage might be reached in which all the now open controversies were determined and scientific discovery cease. There is no inherent reason why science should not have periods of stagnation as art and literature and religion may have. There is no difficulty in imagining that our zest for novelties might lose its edge; we might find that scientific instruments by which investigation has been possible had reached their utmost limits of delicacy. Nothing might remain but to systematise and comment on an unprogressive body of knowledge. Humanity must no longer be human if in this condition it did not furnish us with an imaginative reaction against dogmatism. Convinced once more of the presence of insurmountable difficulties to further knowledge, we should again be ready to start on the career of imaginative re-creation of the unknown; and new mythologies, new religions, new superstitions, new poetry, might once more resume their sway. The world pendulum does thus swing to and fro; and so the growth of the human race goes on, its harmonious development guaranteed on the two sides of man's nature—the imaginative and the positive.

"PÆNE-INSULARUM, SIRMIO, INSULARUMQUE."

(Catullus.)

STAR of the isles or almost-isles the twain
Lords of the wave upbear in sparkling mere,
Bright Sirmio, or in the boundless main,
I joy once more to see thee and be here,
Believing hardly in dear wonderment
That Thynia's plains are all behind me laid!—
Ah! what is sweeter to the travelspent
Than safe repose beneath the happy shade
Of hearth and home on couch so long-desired
Deep-pillowed, and a heart from care allay'd?
Hail, Sirmio, thy joy by mine inspired,
For this one thing hath all that toil repaid:
And, waters of the Lydian lake, begin
To ring with laughter-peals your master in.

H. P. COOKE.

VILLAGE PORTRAITS.

AN HEIR OF THE AGES.

FOR a personage over whom warring destinies have met, at whose feet the solid crust of long tradition has given way and let loose the surge of new forces, Joram Tugwell preserves a tolerably sedate carriage. Seen at his leisure at the "Green Man" door, or at his work as a builder's labourer about the new cottages which begin to invade the meadows below the Green, a thick-set youth with light eyes and round freckled face, he conveys to the outer world the impression that his main concern in life is the business of keeping his pipe going without taking his hands out of his pockets. More than once already his too placid attitude has lost him his job; the foreman at the builder's yard, a crude reactionary, regrets the stick which shaped his own youth so profitably. But perhaps the world is not altogether just to Joram; what seems stolidity almost to the point of vegetation may be only a dazed condition, due to the sudden breaking off of hereditary ways, and the being turned loose upon an unaccustomed world. Ten generations fixed on the land, to go no further back, must have some influence on their descendant, one would think; a childhood spent with Nature in the open fields must leave a stamp of its own. And the break—the migration from a one-storied cottage at Lonewood Common, from the chance jobs of cow-minding or root-trimming on a starved little farm to the bustle of the village street with its four or five shops, its church clock to tell the time, its sound of footsteps at any hour of the day, its omnibus lumbering to and from the railway and the great world seven miles away—was a more cosmic change than might at first sight appear. There are more scales of distance than one; and perhaps that first stage of all, from the dank little cabin and the neglected garden-patch on the edge of the pine wood to the stirring life and warm neighbourhood of the street, is a longer step than any that may come after, though they reach to the other side of the world.

Once a villager, Joram began to discover how important a part of life amusement is. Up at Lonewood, the hedges and fields had their own diversions, and after work on winter nights a page of an old Parish Magazine sufficed for the drowsy hour by the hearth between supper and bedtime. But down in the village there was choice of pleasures, meant and made of set purpose. In summer evenings one could stroll down to the Green and watch the cricket, the rude energies of the hitters and runners seen through the softening veil of meditative smoke; or one could listen to the brass band discoursing beneath the limes that shadowed the village well-house. Joram was neither an athlete nor musical; the fatal tendency of hands to pockets prevented his touching the home-made cricket-bat, the accordion or even the mouth-organ of his fellows. The village band, purists tell us, suffers from a defect

frequent in such "noises" (to use the Shakespearean word): the instruments are the private, perhaps the inherited, property of the musicians, the scattered elements of older orchestras; but their differences of key are a trifle to sound lungs. And if the artists themselves, the half-mysterious caste who "know music", make light of a semitone or so, shall anyone in the listening crowd presume to criticise? To Joram Tugwell and his likes, leaning against the lime-trunks, while the blue incense-haze mellows the scene and the lamplight begins to touch out the shadowy leaves in the green darkness overhead, the rhythmic grunt of the brass and the pulse of the drum merely serve to time the murmur of the street to a comfortable lullaby.

And when the autumn evenings begin to close in, the Post Office window displays, amongst its advertisements of strays and stock sales, notices of distractions which should suffice to keep the village leisure occupied till spring. Some of these, of course, make no appeal to Joram and his kind; not for him are the Choral Society's rehearsals of Sterndale Bennett; nor the dancing-class in the long room at the "Green Man", where the string band conducted by Mr. Pilbeam the clocksmith supersedes the brass of summer eves; nor the County Council's classes for wood-carving or domestic hygiene. Indeed, from most of these more elevating recreations Joram and his friends are barred by class distinctions as wide, perhaps, as any other social gulf. From the street he hears the assembly room of the inn resound to fiddle and flute and energetic rhythm of feet, or to the sopranos renewing their attack on a cantata chorus; he watches the lads from the general shop hurrying in at the side door, with their pumps in the tail pockets of their black coats, the girls in striking blouses with their music rolls. It is not for him, if he would; but he neglects even the permitted delights of the humbler reunions at the "Griffin", where one dances in boots, even the free and easy concert at the sing-song in the bar. The Reading Room draws him for a time; there is the stifling heat from the stove on winter nights, the cheerful click of the bagatelle balls, the hum of talk, routing the vague oppression of the silent frost outside. He goes now and then to the Penny Readings, not for the sake of the piano duets, the tremulous ballads of the young ladies from the Post Office or the school, or the curate's Dickens readings; but for the cheerful glare of the kerosene lamps on the whitewashed walls, the thick human atmosphere, the chance of a snug corner on the back benches, where he can crack nuts and mingle cat-calls with the polite applause. When these fail to amuse, as in time they will, there remains the sufficing pleasure of the street itself, the pastime of standing about with a mate or two at the corner where the window of the general shop shines on the night, though the wind be raw and sift the steady drizzle in between hat-brim and coat-collar. It is enough to hear the drops spit in the red pipe-bowl, to talk at intervals of well-understood things, to shift one's feet and turn once more with a moth-like instinct to the streaming light. At no time will there come the least regret for the life left behind, hardly perhaps a going back in thought to the lonely fields. The clink of shop-door bells, the rumble of wheels, the roar of the forge leave no place for the memory of sounds learned in the solitary uplands, pheasants crowing in winter dusk, or the plover's call from the fallows under a misty moonlight. If Joram ever goes back in body towards the old neighbourhoods, it is in company with his mates for a half-holiday's tosspenny behind a barn, with a scout on the watch for the reconnoitring constable, or a Sunday morning's stroll by the coverts with a clever lurcher. To judge by analogy, he will end his days within the village bounds; he is not of the adventurous temper that makes the railway-man or the nomadic navvy. He will marry young, and settle in one of the new cottages—cubes of raw brickwork just set down on a waste of broken hedges and trampled clay; he will lightly earn and spend his summer wages, precariously employed in wheeling barrows of clay and carrying mortar which he is not qualified to mix; he will be out of work every winter, and always within arm's length of the relieving officer; he will take his

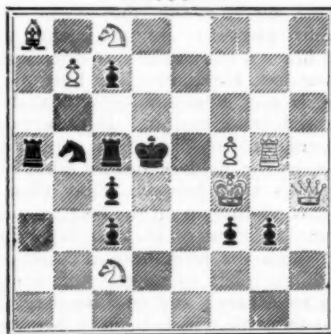
daily quantum of bad beer at the "Griffin", seldom technically drunk, and perhaps never critically sober. Thus he will achieve a career, acquire a voice in his country's councils, help to evolve the coming race. The one thing that he certainly will never do is to return to the life of the fields. He is as surely lost to the land and to all country ways, there in his cottage beyond the Green, as though he had sunk in the warrens of Mile End. From his garden palings he can see the ploughs going to and fro on the neighbouring hillside; market-days bring sheep and cattle by his door in droves; but he is as likely to turn his hand to literature or high politics as he is ever to meddle with arable or pasture again. We talk at large about the country and the town, with a vague picture of green fields before us for the one, and the thought of city slums for the other; as though it were a matter of locality, of relative distance from S. Paul's, and not of the temper of men's minds. That strenuous inertia which sends our Joram Tugwells with their hands in their pockets from the hedgerows to the streets does not necessarily carry them as far as London Bridge. The rows of cottages which are springing up round the village shut out the old rural life and instinct as thoroughly as any seven-story "model building" by Thames. No need to look beyond your bounds, friend Joram, for your desires:

"quod petis, hic est;
Est Ulubris . . ."

And all about you, fenced off by a magic talisman you keep in your pocket, so that they can never claim their child again, lie the hungry meadows and half-tilled fields.

CHESS.

PROBLEM 59. By G. CHOCOLOUS,
Black, 9 pieces.



White, 8 pieces.
White to mate in two moves.

PROBLEM 60. By O. WURZBURG.—White (6 pieces): K—KR3, Q—KB8, R—KB3, P—KR2, P—KKt3, P—KB4. Black (2 pieces): K—KR8, R—Q8. White to mate in three moves.

Solutions to above will be duly acknowledged.

KEY TO PROBLEM 57: 1. R—QKt3. If 1. . . . R×R, 2. Kt—Kt6 ch, &c. 1. . . . B×R, 2. B—Q5, &c. 1. . . . R×B, 2. R—Kt8, &c. Other variations accordingly.

KEY TO PROBLEM 58: 1. B—R8, Kt×P; 2. K—Kt7, Kt moves outside the range of the bishop on Kt6; K—B7 ch, Kt—Kt7; K—B6, and so on until it gets on Q—B2, when B×Kt mate.

The following beautiful game illustrates the possibilities of handicap games. It must however be clearly understood that the odds receiver is always the determining factor. To lose the game he must make some sort of mistake, although it may demand great talent to discern and derive the utmost advantage from it:—

REMOVE WHITE'S QUEEN'S KNIGHT.

White Kolsch.	Black Maude.	White Kolsch.	Black Maude.
1. P—K4	P—K4	4. Castles	P—Q3
2. Kt—KB3	Kt—QB3	5. P—QKt4	B×KtP
3. B—B4	B—B4		

White desires a position on the lines of the Evans' Gambit. It is a matter of individual taste whether the

pawn should be accepted or not. As a rule it is much better for the odds receiver to develop as rapidly as possible without wasting any time in obtaining additional material. It is easier to win with a piece plus and a simple position than with a piece and pawns to the good and a complicated position—

- | | | | |
|---------|-------|----------|-------|
| 6. P-B3 | B-QB4 | 9. B-Kt2 | Kt-B3 |
| 7. P-Q4 | P×P | 10. P-K5 | P×P |
| 8. P×P | B-Kt3 | 11. B-R3 | ... |

On the other hand the odds giver ignores the temporary loss of additional material if only he can obtain freedom for his own pieces and cramp his opponents at the same time. All that white aims at at present is to prevent black castling.

- | | | | |
|---------|------|----------|-----|
| 11. ... | B-K3 | 13. Q-R4 | B×P |
| 12. B×B | P×B | | |

The result of the game can be attributed to this move: P-K5 followed by Q×P would have kept white busy.

- | | | | |
|------------|-------|-----------|-----|
| 14. QR-Kt1 | B-Kt3 | 16. QR-B1 | ... |
| 15. KR-Q1 | Kt-Q2 | | |

White has complete command over the board, though he is a piece and three pawns "down". He is now threatening R×Kt, and if P×R, Q×P and a mating position.

- | | | | |
|----------|-------|----------|-----|
| 16. ... | Kt-Q5 | 18. R×Kt | ... |
| 17. Kt×P | P-B3 | | |

Echoing the last note,

- | | | |
|---------|------|-------------|
| 18. ... | B×R | 20. R-B8 ch |
| 19. R×P | Q-B3 | |

and mate next move. Instead of 19. Q-B3 black might have played B×Kt, whereupon 20. R×P ch, K-B2; 21. Q-QB4 winning. Or if 19. P×R then Q×P and black is helpless. It is difficult to realise that black has a lost game.

BRIDGE.

THE PLAY OF THE SECOND HAND.

"SECOND hand plays low" is almost as good a general rule at bridge as it was at whist, but the fact that the dummy hand is exposed at bridge gives the second rather more opportunity of exercising his intelligence than he had at whist when the other three hands were all unknown quantities. The second hand is the hand which is led through, whether the lead comes from the dealer or from the dummy. In speaking of the second hand it must be understood that we are referring only to the play of the defenders, not to the play of the dealer when his opponents have the lead.

Always to cover an honour led, if he has less than four of the suit, is an excellent general principle for the second player, but he must be guided a little by the cards exposed in dummy. When the dealer leads the queen of a suit, up to ace and others in dummy, and the second hand has king with one or two others, he should always cover the queen. He can gain nothing by passing, as the ace will not be put on the queen, and his only chance of winning a trick in the suit lies in his partner holding the knave or 10. Some players cannot bear to sacrifice a high card in such a position, and many a trick is given away by the second hand refusing to cover an honour. In a No Trump game, if the second hand holds king and three others, he should not cover a queen led, when ace and two others are in dummy, as it is obvious that his king must become good on the fourth round, but against a suit declaration there is no fourth round, and the second player should always play his king on a queen led however many he has. If he has four or five of the suit and the dummy has three, either the dealer or his partner must be short in it, and the queen is very possibly a single card.

Holding king, queen, and one other, or queen, knave, and one other, the second hand should always "split his honours" and play one of them when a small card is led. It is one of the many positions at bridge when he can lose nothing by so doing, and may gain. If the ace is over his king and queen suit, the most that he can do is to win one trick in the suit unless his partner holds

the knave, in which case there is nothing lost by his putting on the queen second in hand.

When the dealer leads a knave up to ace, 10, and others in dummy, or a 10 up to ace, knave, and others, and the second hand has king, or queen guarded, he should always cover with his high card. His partner is practically marked with the other honour, and will be able to win the first trick if the second hand passes it, but the remaining honour will then be hopelessly boxed in, and the only chance of winning two tricks in the suit is for his partner to hold the 9 in addition to his king or queen.

When the dealer leads up to ace, queen, 10 in dummy, or when he leads the 10 up to ace, queen and others, and the second hand holds king, knave and another, he should play the king and not the knave on the first round. If he plays the knave the dummy will win it with the queen, and the situation will be quite clear to the dealer, whereas if the second hand puts on the king, the ace will have to take it and the dealer will be very liable to place the knave in the other hand. Just as it is desirable at all times to give information to one's partner, so it is equally undesirable to give unnecessary information to one's opponents, and this is just one of the occasions when it is possible to deceive an opponent without doing any harm to one's partner.

When the whole strength in a suit is marked against him it is useless for the second hand to cover an honour led. Thus, suppose the dealer leads the knave of a suit of which the second hand holds king and two others, and the dummy has ace, queen, 10 to five, the second player can gain nothing by covering the knave, as, if the dealer has another one to lead, the fourth player can have only three, and every card in the suit is good against him, therefore he should pass the knave and pray that the dealer may not have another one to lead. Holding king and one other only, with the ace, queen, knave lying over him in dummy, the second hand should not play the king when the suit is first led through him and then say that it did not matter as his king was dead in any case. He must remember that the dealer is not to know that the king is singly guarded, and he will have to use an entry card to put his own hand in again in order to lead the suit a second time, and every entry card taken out of the dealer's hand is a distinct gain.

When the second hand, playing before dummy, can win the trick cheaply, as against dummy, he should always do so in order to protect his partner's hand, but he should never put on an ace, second in hand, whatever is in dummy, unless it is very important for him to get the lead. A common instance of this is when the dealer leads a small card up to king, knave, and others in dummy, and the second hand has ace with one or two small ones. Unless one trick will save the game, or unless he particularly wants the lead, he should not put on his ace but should play a small one, so as to give his partner a chance of making the queen if the dealer finesses the king, knave. These are the general principles which should govern the play of the second hand.

CORRESPONDENCE.

GERMANY AND THE PEACE OF EUROPE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Mr. C. Wichmann's anxiety to deny that Germany contemplated war on France in 1875 does credit to one who at this time would lend all the support he can to the movement in favour of better relations between Germany and Great Britain. That movement is one which every patriotic German and every patriotic Englishman should assist with all his heart and all his head. But history is one thing: present desires are another. We need not forget Trafalgar and Waterloo because we are close friends with France, and there is no need to ignore what Germany has done or aimed to do because she seeks to do better in the present and the future.

When Mr. Wichmann says that the story of German intentions in 1875 has long since been relegated to the category of fiction I think it is only fair to ask for his

authority. Who are the "well-informed" who know that the story is malicious gossip and pure invention? Mr. Sidney Whitman is a very excellent journalist and writer on affairs, and I believe wrote a Life of Bismarck, but Mr. Whitman's denial like Mr. Wichmann's unless supported by evidence is no more than an amiable ipse dixit. That Germany should be eager to obliterate the memory of a moment when she was prepared to do something that would have staggered Europe is easy to understand. "Does anyone suppose that Bismarck would have remained in office to commence a war which he was utterly opposed to?" asks Mr. Wichmann. That seems to me to be a very naïve way of talking round the point. What Bismarck would have done if war had come in 1875 no one can say. What he did was, without compromising himself, to take steps which thanks to Russia and England rendered war impossible. The war might have been unpopular, as Mr. Wichmann suggests, but there would have been no need for the people to "turn out in their millions" if the army was keen on the war. The army would have carried through the war the army had made.

However, all this may be as valuable or as valueless as Mr. Wichmann's own assertions. If he can produce proofs in support of his contention you Sir would I am sure be prepared to withdraw your reference to 1875, for no one can charge the SATURDAY REVIEW with unkindly feelings towards Germany.

Yours faithfully,
CONSTANT READER.

FOR NEGROPHILES.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

November 23.

SIR,—The State of Kentucky may be called a medium-sized American State—a territorial item of forty thousand and four hundred square miles. During the year 1904 it completed "colour legislation", based upon a scientific study of anthropology, by passing an Act providing that "a white person attending a negro school, or a negro attending a school for white persons", be made "subject to a fine of fifty dollars for each day he attends such institution".

"Long-haired men and short-haired women" (to use a famous phrase) in England have succeeded in reducing our once-prosperous West Indian colonies to comic operatic "nigger warrens". In the teeth of growing American desire to police the Caribbean Sea, can they keep them such?

ANGLO-AMERICAN.

COUNTY COUNCIL MUSIC.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Westminster Club, 4 Whitehall Court, S.W.

SIR,—With reference to Mr. Runciman's most just indictment of the L.C.C.'s attitude towards music in the Parks, and to Mr. E. L. C. Watson's defence, I would say that if the latter would wend his way to the Embankment on a Sunday when the band in the gardens there has finished its performance, he will find the pandemonium he misses in the Strand in full swing. I have frequent occasion to go down Villiers Street to take the Underground, and the antics of the herd of larrikins—boys and girls of fourteen upwards, who proceed to coarse jests and vulgar amorous hilarity after their free feast of supposedly elevating music—is typically English and a portentous sign of the times.

Yours faithfully,
WAKELING DRY.

SIMILARITIES IN DIALECT.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

24 Cannon Street, Manchester, 5 December.

SIR,—I noticed with considerable interest the article in your paper in reference to the Scotch peasants and the Norwegian peasants being able to understand each

other's dialect. I may say however that this is by no means an unusual circumstance, as similar experiences have occurred in other parts of the world. It is a common thing for people who speak the Lancashire dialect, on visiting Flanders, to find that they are able to hold conversation with the Flemish-speaking people. This may be accounted for probably by the fact that many Flemish emigrants settled in the manufacturing towns of Lancashire, and the dialect of the people in these towns to-day retains many of its original characteristics. It is also a fact worthy of note that in some parts of Lancashire, words which are used as dialect words are really pure French words, and are given the correct French pronunciation, while the meaning is also retained. Another point in this connexion, worthy of note, is that a gentleman on a recent journey to Canada was surprised to find that he was able to understand the Scandinavian passengers on board, and that many of their utterances were strangely identical with English.

Yours faithfully,
JAS. CHILD.

THE EDUCATION PROBLEM.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Kenchester Rectory, Hereford.

SIR,—Although the majority of educated people throughout the Empire view the change of Government with little short of apprehension—all the more so because the Cabinet does not include Lord Rosebery—still there are some burning questions which a Liberal Government may compose, if only it rises to the occasion. Among these that of education occupies a prominent place, and, as I venture to think, rightly.

Archbishop Temple, representing hard common sense, "The Church Times" voicing the High Church, and Bishop Percival, the Broad Church party, all joined in warning Mr. Balfour against his fatal policy of putting the voluntary schools on the rates. That experiment not only exasperated nonconformity, but by augmenting the rates has angered farmers and labourers. To what extent the elections will show. I do not hesitate to say that the heaviest blow dealt at the Church since Cromwell was when the first passive resister went to prison. Cheap satire assailed him and his congeners, fustian recalling the pungent Cavalier ditty, entitled "The Clean Contrary Way"—accent on the second syllable of "contrary". But the argument from jingle did not then prevail against the sabres of the Ironsides, and, briefly, that is poor statesmanship which relegates conscience to prison. Moreover the Bill pleased no one. It took more from the Church than it gave; it opened the door, not widely, but more than ajar, to secular education.

That is not what dissenters want—exceptis excipendis, e.g. Dr. Clifford. Their wish is for a revival of undenominationalism, coupled with such measures as will effectually quash dogmatic teaching in any schools receiving state aid. They are willing to except Roman Catholics, so long as Anglican schools are muzzled. Had Mr. Balfour, when he put the voluntary schools on the rates, followed the Canadian plan of allowing each ratepayer to assign his rate to the schools of his own denomination within his electoral area, or else to purely secular schools—so as to meet the agnostic conscience—there would have been no passive resistance. That would have involved a fixed rate, a system much to be desired, and it would have worked smoothly enough. Unfortunately Mr. Balfour, by passing a partisan Act, has produced a reaction, which may be fatal to religious teaching altogether. Much depends on the attitude of those able, conscientious, and scholarly leaders of religious dissent, Doctors Campbell of the City Temple and Horton of Hampstead. Both are Oxford men and reflect nonconformist culture. If they will put forth their strength, a measure may be passed involving no injustice to either party, and ensuring finality; if not, we shall be condemned to a fresh experiment in elementary education with every swing of the pendulum.

Yours faithfully,
COMPTON READE.

REVIEWS.

SANITY AND SYMPATHY.

"Lectures and Essays." By Alfred Ainger. 2 vols. London: Macmillan. 1905. 15s. net.

IT takes a full-blown rose, and after examination presents to the reader a heap of petals without form or perfume." Thus Canon Ainger of criticism—"almost all criticism". If this be true it is true especially of the criticism of such a collection as this—a collection of miscellaneous studies written at different dates and in different forms and for different audiences. If the book be worth publishing it must be in virtue of its flavour and perfume as a whole, and the minute criticism which scrutinises details and isolates "petals" will be purposeless and misleading. We agree with Canon Beeching that the book justifies itself. Not only does it enforce lessons "which still need enforcing" but its atmosphere—its sane, healthy, sympathetic atmosphere—is salutary and invigorating in these days when a literary pose so often takes the place of critical discrimination and a feverish preciosity is so often mistaken for a sense of style.

These essays are good for us. It is good for us to hear about the people whom the literary young man calls "Early Victorian" from the lips of one whom even the literary young man admits to have been keen and cultured. It is good for us to read "Mr. Dickens's Amateur Theatricals" and to enjoy the enjoyment of its genial narrator, and envy his fresh vivacity and get a breath of salt air. Canon Ainger does not use the phrase "Early Victorian"; but we feel that had he done so he would not have made it sound like a term of abuse; it would have had no tang of derision. For his youth was lived in that great age of creative effort, and he felt genius in the air about him. He saw Mr. Dickens act and cannot scoff. In less indirect ways, of course, he reminds us that he is writing in many of these essays for an earlier generation. In one of them he finds "the representative humorous diet of the English middle class" in "Mr. Gilbert's Savoy Extravanzas". Alas! where would he find it now? His delight over Sir George Rose's witticisms smacks of an earlier decade. But these things are but accidents of date. It is rather in his general attitude that we mark a bygone habit of mind. He is not very allusive. He quotes well-known passages from well-known poems at length with great cheerfulness and courage. And this frankness, old-fashioned though it is, produces conviction. It is not everybody who can make "mentem mortalia tangunt" sound apt. His shrewdest blows are reserved for all forms of euphuism—the tortuous style and the irritating "literary" jargon that makes much of our modern writing ring so false, and in treating of Shakespeare it is with a touch of triumph that he points out that in the work of a great genius the charge of plagiarism—that bugbear of our latter-day pigmies—has no meaning or relevance. He sighs for the man who, as Dryden said of Ben Jonson, "invades authors like a monarch".

Some of his judgments upon modern literature strike one to-day as being a little prejudiced and partial, even though we admit that—as in the case of his estimate of "Paola and Francesca"—it is on its lack of ethical depth and importance that he insists rather than on any superficial faults of manner. There is just a note of petulance in such phrases as "those periodical effusions which now do duty so largely for books", which suggests that he would probably have seen little of good in, say, Ernest Dowson's poems, and that he might conceivably have failed to appreciate "Many Cargoes".

But such traces of bitterness are rare, for, as we have said, sanity and sympathy is the keynote of these essays. We feel as we read that we have here the conclusions of a man of mature judgment, a man whose thoughts are those "third that are a ripper first", a man who has not only read books widely but has tasted them curiously and knows wherein is their sweetness. He is sane always; sane when he sees that Dickens's pathos may often be inartistic and yet never be insincere, sane when he confesses how "exasperatingly disagreeable" are some of Shake-

spere's plots, sane (and he a Southerner) when he writes of Robert Burns. His width of sympathy no less than his sanity is notable in these days when the professed critic is too often one in whom the narrowness of his literary creed has produced an habitual intolerance and a deficient sense of proportion. To the not small number of educated people who think of Ainger only in connexion with Lamb it will be an admirable surprise to hear him speaking—and speaking with interest and vigour—of Cowper and Dickens and Mr. Stephen Phillips and Burns and Mrs. Barbauld. He has, moreover, the gracious gift of charity—"the charity" (he himself is speaking of the secret of Elia's charm) "which in literature as in life is the grace that is above all graces". He loves to find tenderness in Swift, and, like the Swift of the "Journal to Stella", he is "sound in his humanities". From a reading of this book it is this general impression of clear-eyed kindness that we carry away with us rather than any noteworthy contributions to the critical study of individual authors or subjects. In his study of the stages of Shakespeare's art, however, the ordinary reader will find much that is instructive—the analysis, for instance, of the style of "Love's Labour's Lost", and the Baconian, could he but tear himself away from his ciphers, would do well to give "The Illiterate Peasant" his distinguished attention. Further (though we are unwilling to "present to the reader a heap of petals") we would mention the extremely suggestive study of Coleridge's Dejection Ode, the discussion of the place of Cowper among the forerunners of Wordsworth and his circle, and the contrast admirably though very briefly drawn between the humour of George Eliot and that of either Dickens or Thackeray.

It would be unfair to judge of Canon Ainger as stylist or literary craftsman from a collection such as this. The workmanship is of necessity unequal. The popular lectures were written, says Canon Beeching in his preface, "in haste, and with little heed for style, for the sake of the lessons to be taught". Yet without wishing to find cogency of presentment sacrificed to symmetry of form we cannot but feel now and then that their author is led by his abhorrence of euphuism into a needless carelessness of finish. It is not the euphuist only who will object to such sentences as "he spoke of his characters as puppets he had been pulling the strings of". When we read of "pro-Baconers" we shudder. Perhaps Canon Ainger meant his audience to shudder. But a Royal Institution audience however prone to preciosity might, we submit, have been taught how not to be precious and even how not to write of Shakespeare by methods less violent and equally efficacious.

Ainger was not, we think, a great critic. He had the sympathetic and receptive mind that loves books and takes colour from the books it loves, but not the mind of which the author of "The Critic as Artist" (what, we wonder, would this essayist have said of that essay?) once wrote—the creative mind that makes of old literary material a new literary masterpiece. We look in vain in these studies for the illuminating, inevitable word or phrase that makes us catch our breath in sudden, surprised acquiescence. It is this that reveals the great critic: for it is certain (though we doubt whether Ainger would easily have admitted) that there is a critic who can be brilliant and yet be profound. It is curious and interesting to mark how far above the other essays in style and charm stands that named "How I traced Charles Lamb in Hertfordshire". In the excitement of that affectionate enthusiasm he forgets his audience, and his admirable precepts, and the decadence of literature, and everything save only the compelling fascination of his beloved Elia. His style catches the fire. With a whimsical smile Elia seizes the pen and guided by those inimitable fingers it writes wise, lucid words glowing with warmth and colour and humorous kindness.

It will always be of Elia that we think, and of his life and his letters and his genius when we think of Canon Ainger's work in literature, and he himself, we doubt not, would gladly have it so. Yet for all that we welcome all that is printed in this book. For its author was more than a reader of pure and catholic taste, more than a writer of wit and scholarship. He had a

message which he felt constrained to give to this generation. He thought that the readers of books to-day were in danger of forgetting that literature is a great instrument of good or evil in life and not merely stuff from which to spin a web of words, that freakishness is not culture, that of wisdom and humour the root is humanity: and who dare say that he was wrong?

POLITICS OR HISTORY?

"The Development of the European Nations 1870-1900." By J. Holland Rose. London: Constable. 1905. 18s. net.

DR. ROSE'S new book raises some very interesting and difficult questions. Assuming that students or educated men and women seem to expect critical narratives of very modern history, how far is it desirable that our best historical scholars should consider it their duty to meet that demand? How far is it possible for a trained scholar to approach the events of an epoch through which he has probably lived himself with sufficient detachment to produce work as valuable for his generation as would be his work on past history? How far is it likely that such a trained investigator will find the material requisite for the adequate discharge of his duty? These are very obvious if complicated questions, but the answers involve equally complicated considerations. No one we take it who has read Dr. Rose's "Life of Napoleon" will seriously doubt that he has proved himself to possess many of the qualities of the scientific historian. Nor can any reasonable human being require that a scientific historian should not take a deep, even a passionate interest in the public affairs of his own generation. A student whose intellectual interests are wide and strong is the better not the worse if the government and policy of his country are of supreme importance to him, if he never forgets that the study or the laboratory does not exempt him from the claims of citizenship. To alter a saying of Napoleon's, "The historian who does great things is he who possesses also qualities adapted for civil life." But interest even action in public affairs is one thing: narrating them by means of a critical correlation of the facts another. To take an example; knowing what we do of the political creed of Dr. Stubbs and Mr. Freeman would we calmly agree that it would have been more useful to the world had these distinguished men devoted their labours to middle nineteenth-century history? "A history of the development of nations from 1840-1870" from the pens of Stubbs and Freeman would certainly have been interesting and, published simultaneously, bewildering reading, but would it have given us any real measure of the powers of the author of the Constitutional History of England or the Norman Conquest? The would-be scientific historian of purely modern history is in fact in a cruel dilemma. He must either surrender his creed and content himself with the baldest of bald narratives, or he must frame his judgments and colour his narrative with principles suitable for the platform and the council chamber but opposed to the admitted methods of scientific investigation. At the foot of every page must stand the warning—Caveat Lector. The Idols of the Market Place meet and menace the reader in every act of the drama. All historical narratives involve controversies. Can the controversies of purely modern history be dissociated from the political partisanship of the present? History is not biography. Nor is it a record by the actor of his impressions. It does not start with heroes: it ends by finding them. It is only in wonderland and general elections that the sentence precedes the evidence and the verdict. Is it politics or history that we are discussing? If politics then the review should take its place amongst the political articles in this paper; but if it is pure history a reviewer might be compelled to say that Dr. Rose was a very mischievous and wrongheaded person, which is the last thing that he wishes to say, for in many respects (e.g. his treatment of Bulgaria and the Treaty of Berlin, his examination of the Congo State, of Russian policy in Finland, in his epilogue generally and a dozen other problems involving party and national politics) he

happens to think that Dr. Rose is a very sane, very admirable and right-minded man, simply because he agrees with him, and is convinced all sane persons would agree with him, and those who do not ought to be disfranchised. Nor do the difficulties end here. The events of the day may stultify inferences drawn from the evidence available when the writer wrote. Dr. Rose we fancy would probably not be sorry to reconsider some of the paragraphs dealing with Russia or the Congo State in his book by the light of the events of last week and when his fourth edition comes out he will probably have to revise the revision in order to preserve his reader's belief in his penetration and intuition, not to speak of his fairness. So again the chapter on Egypt between 1880 and 1885 might already be profitably supplemented from the recent Life of Lord Granville, and even by a correction by Lord Cromer in a recent issue of the "Times" of a statement in that Life. Dr. Rose frankly admits that for many of the important events described in his book we have at best grounds for inference alone. The critical historian of the Triple Alliance in short is in the position of the historian who would describe the Diplomatic Revolution (1748-1756) but had never seen a copy of the Treaties of Versailles, and was ignorant of the secret articles and their importance. Felix qui potuit rerum cognoscere causas—is the motto on Dr. Rose's title page—"a sigh of aspiration not a pæan of achievement". Felix indeed. But where to-day is the material for the felicity? We know the truth at last about the Diplomatic Revolution because the Newcastle correspondence and the Politische Correspondenz and the Archives of the Quai d'Orsay are open to a Droysen, a Broglie, an Arneth or a Waddington. But the Foreign Offices to-day do not disclose more fully than they did in 1750 even the bare facts. And the causes? and the verdict on the causes? Here is one: "the Afghan trouble was a natural sequel to the opposition offered by Disraeli to Russia from the time of the re-opening of the Balkan problem in 1875-6; . . . will add one more to the many proofs already existing as to the fatefulness of the blunder committed by him when he wrecked the Berlin Memorandum, dissolved the Concert of the Powers, and rendered hopeless a peaceful solution of the Eastern Question" (page 393). Is not every sentence in this quotation a matter of dispute, of inference, the cumulative effect of which is crucially controversial?

We do not wish to be misunderstood. Dr. Rose of course is more than entitled to hold the political views that commend themselves to his trained and amply stored knowledge; they deserve the respect of all who value a trained historian's conclusions on matters of inexhaustible interest and importance to every good citizen. We have read his book and learned no little from it; it is skilfully planned, carefully executed, and exhibits on every page a sincere desire to master the problem and present it fairly and accurately. Considering the number and complexity of the acutely controversial problems with which it successively deals, the political bias, the idols of the study and the market place, are by no means so aggressively evident as we had feared when we first took it up. So far as such a book can be satisfactorily written Dr. Rose has done it, and we have little doubt that every student who reads it will close it grateful for the "track notched through thickets all but untrodden".

But if we wished to pick a friendly quarrel with Dr. Rose we should do it on the ground that he has given us too little rather than too much. Military history occupies a disproportionate part of the book. But the results rather than the methods of campaigns are for a political study the essential thing, and these sections on military operations, clear as they are, show that military history as such cannot be profitably described and studied except with the definiteness of detail that no such book as this can permit. And why is America excluded? Apparently because the European nations alone are the subject of study, a study be it noted that takes us up the Nile, into South Africa, along the Niger, from Lake Baikal to Port Arthur, from the Caspian to the Pamirs, and selects the Congo State for special treatment by itself. How is the term European to be defined? The

Berlin Conference of 1885 which created the Congo State is apparently "European". The award of the Geneva Arbitration is apparently not. The war between Spain and the United States, which permanently affected the balance of power in two continents and which opened a new chapter in the intellectual and political history of imperialism and of "world politics", has apparently nothing to do with "the development of the European nations", but the decision of Macmahon about the rights of Portugal in Delagoa Bay which confirmed the status quo has. Is not this a little arbitrary? As well argue surely that the Mexican campaign of France was not a "European" event. Spain indeed which is mentioned three times in the index (page 42 is the last!) has a case against Dr. Rose. Of the Carlist movement for example we are told nothing. Has Spain then between 1870-1900 been simply a geographical expression? Our second line of criticism is already anticipated by Dr. Rose himself. "This epoch" he says very truly, "momentous as it is in the annals of mankind, does not form a homogeneous whole". We cordially agree. The back of the period breaks at 1878 and not all Dr. Rose's skill can conceal the break. And here we would offer a practical suggestion which would we are convinced increase the value of the book. The Introduction should be expanded to thrice its present length. Unless the reader is to be plunged into the vortex of 1870 without proper preparation the course of European history from 1859 onwards requires to be far more clearly explained than it is at present. The space required could be gained by compressing the purely military history. The maps too and the Index need strengthening. The maps are certainly unsatisfactory simply because they do not adequately illustrate the text of the political history. Can the Balkan question, or the Middle-Eastern question, or the North-West Frontier question be made intelligible without adequate coloured maps? Side insets of dates too throughout would be a great advantage when one is necessarily going backwards and forwards as required by the division of the subject matter, and a general bibliography (not exhaustive of course) no small boon. When Dr. Rose has done these things in his next edition we hope he will extricate himself from the jaws of Romulus and return to the past history that has the strongest claims on his industry, his learning and his judgment.

S. CATHERINE OF FLORENCE.

"S. Catherine de' Ricci: Her Life, Her Letters, Her Community." By F. M. Capes. Preceded by a Treatise on the Mystical Life by Fr. Bertrand Wilberforce, O.P. London: Burns. 1905. 7s. 6d. net.

ITALY has given to the world four great S. Catherinees — of Siena, of Bologna, of Genoa and of Florence. All four, too, were great writers. The two Tuscan Catherinees have, moreover, formally been proclaimed classics by the famous Academy which orders such matters in Tuscany; but if the saints of Bologna and Genoa cannot approach them in style and purity of language, the matter of their writings is assuredly to the full as remarkable. S. Catherine de' Ricci is unquestionably a charming stylist; absolutely natural and unaffected, her written language has in it the best qualities of the spoken tongue. No greater tribute to the purity of her diction could be found than the fact that the fastidious Academicians of the Crusca have cited her as a model of style nearly 1,100 times* in their new Vocabolario, which has to-day only reached the beginning of the letter M. Of the prefatory treatise on the mystical life be it said at once that it is a model of its kind. A melancholy interest attaches to it, for its devout author is since deceased.

The great historical figure of S. Catherine of Siena has perhaps somewhat too much overshadowed her

equally fascinating namesakes, and we therefore give peculiar welcome to a Life of S. Catherine of Florence in an English dress. This particular biography is an excellent introduction to a delightful subject, new, we suspect, to numberless English readers. Miss Capes is frank and unpretentious: such virtues disarm criticism. She confesses that she does not know Italian, and plainly tells us that the substance of her book is mainly taken from Père Hyacinthe Bayonne's "Vie de Ste. Catherine de Ricci" (Paris, 1873). Still Miss Capes' work is something more than a mere compilation: she has, for instance, very deftly, spirited away the wordiness and the floweriness of the French Dominican: good taste, sound sense, and accurate judgment inform her work, give it a character of its own, and make it acceptable and pleasing reading. Good as is the book, or rather just because it is good and the author shows talent for the difficult subject of hagiographical writing, we cannot help regretting that it should have been based upon a modern life, instead of upon the original sources which are all Italian, Razzi's and Guidi's quaint lives, and the seven hundred and more letters of the saint which are now accessible to us in print.

A word about these letters. A selection of fifty was first published by Cesare Guasti in 1846 (Miss Capes says "with no notes or explanatory matter", but as a fact there are forty pages of such matter, pp. 201-240). In 1861 Guasti delighted the world of letters and religion by his celebrated edition of the "Lettere Spirituali e Familiari", containing 353 letters of the saint and an invaluable apparatus of notes, critical and historical. This edition, says Miss Capes, "was published after his death", but Guasti, still in harness, only died in 1889. In fact at the time of his death he was engaged upon an edition of further letters of S. Catherine de Ricci. These were brought out by his pupil, Alessandro Gherardi the present Keeper of the Florence Archivio. The volume contains 433 letters. Some of them, says Miss Capes, were taken from the 1861 edition. As a matter of fact not one of them was, but twenty-seven letters of the '61 edition which were printed from garbled copies appear in the 1890 edition, taken straight from the originals.

Not that Miss Capes has neglected the letters: on the contrary; unlike Père Bayonne she gives us a number of them in their entirety, translated for her from the Italian by two friends, Miss Cecilia Simeon and Miss E. Kislingbury. Their translations are well done on the whole, and sometimes, in exceptionally difficult passages, particularly felicitous, though they rather often lose nice shades of meaning through want of familiarity with the everyday aspects of the Tuscan tongue. They have fallen into one particularly unfortunate trap. In the eighteenth century a nun of S. Catherine's Convent in Prato copied a hundred of the saint's letters into a book, presumably for edifying reading. This nun took the most shuddering liberties with the originals: the saint's familiar racy Tuscan is transformed into a proper stiltedness of style; her allusions to business, money, things to eat and drink, things of this world, are either excised or changed into allusions to the other world; all the familiarity of her expressions to her scapegrace brothers, whether of pardon, reproach or exhortation, vanishes; nay, this prim formalist of the eighteenth century is so shocked that a saint should have addressed her brother Vincenzo (twenty-two years younger than herself) with the affectionate "tu" that she does not hesitate to substitute the pompous, ponderous, formal "voi". Now Guasti in 1861 reproduced these garbled letters (not without a suspicion that they had been touched up), but twelve of the originals to the brothers have been recovered and were printed by Gherardi in the 1890 edition. Miss Capes has given us seven of these twelve letters, but her friends have most unfortunately translated from the garbled version published in 1861 instead of from the pure text printed in 1890. We regret that space does not permit us to give a few examples of the sacrilegious methods adopted by the unknown nun in the name of edification.

And since we have lapsed into criticism be it said that the chief defect of the book under review is that it is based upon a Life written before the priceless letters

* Information only to be got by going laboriously through the whole dictionary; it has been most courteously furnished to this Review by the Arciconsolo of the Academy, the learned Signor Giovanni Tortoli; 991 citations are from the 1861 edition of the Letters, and 160 from the 1890 edition.

of the 1890 edition had appeared. These letters, all printed from the originals, and most of them addressed to members of the Saint's family—two hundred and fifty-nine of them are to her half-brother Vincenzo—give us a new view of Catherine's character. It is little short of marvellous to read all these lucid details of practical and family matters when one remembers that for twelve years of her earlier life S. Catherine was subject to a regular weekly ecstasy which lasted from noon on Thursday to four o'clock on Friday evening during which she visibly enacted the whole scene of the Passion. No documents we have ever seen so conclusively prove that a Catholic ecstatic can at the same time be a perfectly level-headed woman of the world. Miss Capes, we hope, will study these letters without which no Life of S. Catherine is complete, and make use of them in a fresh edition of her book. A few other matters also need attending to: we should have been warned that in the dates of the letters she has kept the Florentine style, e.g. that her 21 March 1542 is really 1543. Cosimo I, when simply Doge of Florence, should not be called Grand Duke of Tuscany; while to speak of a King and a Kingdom of Bavaria in 1565 will make even superficial readers open their eyes. True, Père Bayonne falls into the same solecism and is here merely copied; but that is just the mischief of compiling from the work of someone else instead of writing up a book from the original sources.

WORDS ABOUT WORDS.

"The Origin of Thought and Speech." By M. Moncalm. Translated by G. S. Whitmarsh. London: Kegan Paul. 1905. 9s.

IF anyone turns to this book for new light on deep problems or for closely reasoned argument he will be disappointed. M. Moncalm does little more than scholasticism on Max Müller—*illius addictus iurare in verba magistri*—in desultory and agreeable fashion. Yet perhaps he is not quite the dilettante he professes to be, apologising in a charming French way for his thirteen chapters—too lazy, as it were, to add a quatorzième—and for his unsavantlike lack of method. Is it to heighten this air of extreme amateurishness that his translator makes him talk of Haracritus, Heroditus and Apollos, or use formula as a neuter plural? These might be slips; but what is to be said of a footnote assigning Dean Mansel to the seventeenth century!

It is not possible to get a clear idea from Max Müller, who ridiculed the "bow-wow" and "pooh-pooh" theories of the origin of language, how he really considered it to have begun. M. Moncalm as energetically denies both the imitative or onomatopœic theory and the involuntary or interjectional theory. He traces human speech back to the more or less rhythmical sounds emitted by men working at a common task. Hence the ultimate radicals of language, reduced by Max Müller to 121 mother sounds, are all verbs expressing material activity, and mostly imperatives. It is not very plain how this differs from the interjectional theory. Besides, spontaneous noises stand for no universal conceptions. But Max Müller and his disciples teach that there can neither be words without general ideas nor general ideas without words—which came first seems as great a puzzle as the same question about hen and egg. "When we have once seen that thought in its true sense is always conceptual, taking a verbal form, and that every word is derived from a conceptual root, we shall be ready for the assertion that words being conceptual can never stand for a single percept." Whatever is in the intelligence must have entered through the gate of the outer or inner senses. But, Max Müller insists, the power of abstracting and conceiving is the barrier between man and brute. Hence the one has speech, the other not. Æons spent in roaring and barking would never enable wolves and dogs to represent a general notion by a fixed articulation. The speaking of Achilles' horse is described in the "Iliad" as at once checked by the Erinnyes, guardian of the cosmic order against anything monstrous. Where should

rationality and therefore utterance be found so highly developed as in a prophet? It is therefore fitting that Balaam's *παράφρονα*, or abuse of the gift of reason, should be rebuked by the least intelligent of *ἀλογα ζῷα*. Predicative sound, in fact, belongs as a property to Man. He alone can name, for "all naming is classification, and every word was originally a predicate."

Max Müller himself, maintaining that language begins where interjections end, practically gives up the problem of the origin of language as insoluble. Roots, or phonetic types, "are simply ultimate facts". He falls back, after all, on a mystical or theological explanation. "We might say, with Plato, that they exist by nature; though with Plato we should have to add that when we say by nature we mean by the hand of God". This brings us round to Genesis again. Some of the Christian Fathers held that the power conferred by the Creator on Adam of naming the creatures was rather a potentiality of nomenclature than a present possession of developed parts of speech. How some words arose it is easy to see. When Ulysses and his fellows dropped the red-hot pine-tree into Polyphemus' eye, Homer says it sizzed (*ἤϊζε*)—a gruesomely obvious predication. Max Müller admits that "a language might have been made out of the roaring, fizzing, hissing, gobbling, twittering, cracking, banging, slamming and rattling sounds of nature".

How many words are possible? Starting from the four-and-twenty alphabetic sounds, Leibnitz calculated the combinations at 620,448,701,733,239,739,360,000. But many of these combinations would be unpronounceable, even in Welsh. In Chinese every syllable is a separate word. Does man's stock of words grow richer or poorer with time? M. Moncalm foresees an ever higher intellectual destiny for the race in the future. "Our fathers", he says, "did not know the thousandth part of our vocabulary, which is very copious." Certainly the New Dictionary is a much larger work than Johnson's, and we doubt not that Primitive Man talked less than an M.P. does—though even he had his palavers and congresses. But if anyone were to take down the talk of an average modern undergraduate or society girl we doubt if it would be found to contain more than 250 vocables, where an educated Elizabethan or Caroline would have employed several thousand. Nothing is more striking in the old prose writers than the rich variety and imaginative picturesqueness of their language. Not only are we lacking in concrete imagination, and ashamed to go afield out of the beaten track of speech, but phrases which were when first devised forcible and strong have through long currency lost their edge. Three-fourths of the expressions we use have ceased to be effective metaphors and become conventional and lifeless. Every language, it has been remarked, begins as poetry and ends as algebra. Vergil becomes Volapük. A bewitching smile, a bankrupt farmer, a lunatic poet—such expressions are now mere tokens. Figures of speech get hackneyed, and even journalists are beginning to feel ashamed of describing the man who is applauded as "receiving quite an ovation." But in the early writers every phrase has its full intrinsic value. We taste each word as we read. The quality of language, in fact, gets constantly poorer. Besides, the dialectical varieties and local idioms are ever decaying and becoming obsolete. In their place we create nothing except words like bike, motor, footer, soccer, or barbarisms like autocar and cablegram, which the sweet queen of parley, daughter of the sphere, would surely decline to echo from her airy shell. Primitive speech is full of mythology. Ours tends to the style of the telegraph form. Even schoolboys, the nearest approach left to aboriginal man, are ceasing to have the power of creating words.

But if we cannot build words we can dissect them. Linguistic study has made immense strides in the last half-century. Philology's growth is the index of literature's decay. Leibnitz may be said to have started the science of comparative philology, in which he sought the aid of sovereigns, ambassadors, travellers, traders and missionaries. But until the nineteenth century philologists, in Voltaire's phrase, recked nothing of vowels and very little of consonants. Everyone knows the derivation of fox from *ἀλώπηξ*—*alopēx*,

lopēx, opēx, pēx, pēx, pix, pox, fox. Bopp's "Comparative Grammar" appeared in 1833. The rich vein to be struck in the ancient poems of India was, however, still undiscovered. Max Müller seriously affirms that "the etymological equation of the Sanscrit Dyaush-pitar, the Greek Zeus-pater, the Latin Jupiter, and Tyr, Tiw, and Zio of the Germans is the most wonderful discovery of the nineteenth century in the history of humanity", as showing the common belief held by all the Aryan races before their separation. What now, in our opinion, awaits a far deeper investigation, in the light of wider linguistic comparison, than it has yet received is the philosophy not of words but of grammatical syntax, which involves problems carrying the student into the very heart of the nature of things. The best logicians know that the forms of common speech are never at bottom mistaken, but when analysed yield profound metaphysical conceptions which have lain hidden in language from its first origin. The definition of metaphysics as a man talking about what he doesn't understand to a man who doesn't understand what he is talking about may be accurate enough. But the metaphysics are there all the same.

THE WAYS OF OUR RAILWAYS.

"The Ways of Our Railways." By Charles Grinling. London: Ward, Lock. 1905. 10s. 6d. net.

TWENTY years ago the scanty railway literature of this country consisted for the most part of a few severe volumes of engineering technicalities, and works of fiction, obviously written by persons with no special knowledge of the subject, in which the railway detail merely formed the background for an ordinary tale of sentiment or sensation. Mr. Acworth was the first modern writer to show that in the hands of an expert a plain account of the everyday business of our great railways could be made interesting to the ordinary reader, and since the publication of "The Railways of England" a number of other books of the type have appeared, the one now under review being the latest and by far the best. Mr. Grinling does not follow the plan of devoting one chapter to each individual company in turn; he prefers to take a variety of general subjects, such as "Motive Power", "Collection and Delivery", "Docks and Steamships", "Christmas Parcels", and discusses each of these with reference to the railway system as a whole. He describes the genesis and growth of a line, the parliamentary struggles of the promoters and the constructional work of the surveyors and engineers after the Bill is passed; and goes on to deal with the conditions under which the traffic is worked when the line is in operation. Everyone knows that the business of the great English companies is very large, but few realise either its extent or its diversity. Of the North-Western Mr. Grinling tells us that there are over eight hundred different classes of employes in its service; of the Midland that its hotel department alone entitles it to rank with the Gordon or Frederick companies; of the North-Eastern that it is one of the largest dock-owners in the kingdom. In wages alone, as distinct from salaries, one company pays four and a half million pounds a year, while the number of horses employed by the lines in carting exceeds by far the total number at work in the kingdom before railways came in "to ruin the English breed of horses and reduce the equine genus to the level of a museum exhibit". A particularly good chapter is that devoted to docks and steamships. Such information as has been available to the public on this subject hitherto has been scattered in occasional articles throughout the technical press; Mr. Grinling summarises the position of all the companies interested in this branch of trade and his account has the advantage of being absolutely up to date.

In a book of this nature one hardly expects serious criticism, and the reader will find nothing here dealing with the recent financial history of the North-Eastern, or with the evils arising from the absence of continuous brakes on goods trains. One point however Mr. Grinling does make clear. When discussing the question of State purchase, he estimates the value of

the existing lines at over a thousand millions. Yet over this vast property the stockholders, the nominal owners, have no real control. When a director dies or retires those remaining in office co-opt whom they please to fill his place, and in selecting their new colleague the last thing to which they would think of paying any attention is the wishes of the unorganised and helpless general body of stockholders. A title, rather than a knowledge of railway affairs, not infrequently seems to be the best qualification for a seat on the board. In the circumstances then there is always a possibility that power will drift into the hands of some masterful general manager or other official, who may have risen from the ranks, and who may or may not have had the opportunity of studying what is best in the practice of other countries, or indeed of other companies at home. Perhaps therefore instead of grumbling at low dividends or high rates we ought rather to be thankful that things are as good as they are.

The book is not quite free from inaccuracies, which in such cases seem inevitable in a first edition; and necessarily considerations of space have prevented anything like exhaustive treatment of the many matters discussed. The illustrations are excellent, and Mr. Grinling has certainly achieved the object with which, as he tells us, he set out. He has provided the casual reader with information on a subject of which a general knowledge is both interesting and useful. The addition of an index would add greatly to the value of the book as a work of reference.

NOVELS.

"The Vrouw Grobelaar's Leading Cases." By Perceval Gibbon. Edinburgh and London: Blackwood. 1905. 6s.

Mr. Gibbon is one of the few Englishmen who have been able to do justice in novel-writing to the Boer character. The Boer old woman, it is true, is not new to fiction; there is the mistress of the "African Farm", and in it Rider Haggard's "Swallow" the old lady who tells the story is effective. But Vrouw Grobelaar, while of the same broad type as these, has a character of her own, and the Leading Cases which long observation of her would have supplied as guides to conduct cover most sides of South African life. Some of her stories are very grim and may appal squeamish readers, but the brutality is true to life, and is oddly blended with real kindness. Her friends and kinsmen have one standard for dealing with each other, and a very different rule of life for Kaffirs and animals. The proper attitude towards Englishmen and other foreigners is intermediate. Only amongst a people whose memories have not been spoiled by printed books and newspapers can such a store of domestic annals be garnered as Vrouw Grobelaar unfolds. But where an old-time English farm-woman would have had nothing but quiet events on which to dwell, the Boer's life has lain among scenes of violence, Kaffir outbreaks, witchcraft. Mr. Gibbon has such a store of genuine South African material that he need not have revived and transferred to the Transvaal Aristotle's story of the old man who said to his murderous son "Leave me here, my son. Thus far I dragged my father". But in his story of "The Coward" he achieves a fine effect, and, melodramatic and crude as are some of his tales, there is in them the true air of the veld.

"John Carruthers: Indian Policeman." By Sir Edmund C. Cox Bart. London: Cassell. 1905. 3s. 6d.

These sketches incidentally give very good descriptions of certain phases of native life in India, and they illustrate faithfully the difficulties of police work in a country where hardly any case, however good, is considered perfect by the litigant until he has rounded it off with false evidence, and where confessions are generally either extorted by native constables, or are volunteered in the hope of exonerating a guilty or implicating an innocent person at the cost of a slight penalty. In one of these stories a mother confesses to a murder which had never been committed, because the

case against her innocent sons was so strong that she had no hope of their acquittal, while by taking the blame on herself she thought to mitigate their sentences! This is perfectly true to life, incredible as it may seem to the European mind. Sir Edmund Cox, himself an Indian police officer, has a number of good stories to tell, and there is no want of variety in the crimes which he describes. But his John Carruthers is (like most big-game shots who write books) too invariably successful, though ready to admit that he often flukes upon a solution. The artistic method is faulty in one respect: Carruthers does not let us know what he finds as we go along. He unmasks the villain by producing a button at the dramatic moment, and only then tells us where and when he picked it up. It is right to reserve the explanation of what the discovery of the button had suggested, but the stories lose interest when we are not allowed to exercise our own ingenuity on the clues.

"Miss Desmond: an Impression." By Marie van Vorst. London: Heinemann. 1905. 6s.

There is a popular idea, possibly well-founded, that a man's heart is most easily captured at the rebound; that after the man to whom it belongs has been snubbed, jilted, or otherwise hurt by one woman he may most easily fall to the spear of another fair huntress. Thus when a certain flirtatious young man in London society fell out with the married lady with whom he had been "carrying on" more or less innocently, it was only natural that he should be in a most susceptible state. He happened upon the lady's daughter at a Swiss resort, and at once fell in love not with the daughter, but with the girl's aunt and chaperon—the unworldly, unaffected sister of the very worldly person with whom he had been flirting. This is all very simple, but matters are complicated by the appearance of an American rival with a motor-car. The rival is not in himself a serious menace to the prospects of Mr. Robert Bedford. The motor-car—the invention of which has been as a godsend to distracted fiction-writers—is the controlling factor in the situation. There is a physical "spill" with terrible consequences precipitating the end of the romance, but the author provides us with a glimpse of subsequent events for the satisfaction of readers with a taste for conventional endings at any cost. Mr. Robert Bedford was perhaps not a stickler in such matters, but Miss Marie van Vorst may be reminded that according to a certain "table" in the English Prayer Book "a man may not marry his wife's mother's sister".

"French Nan." By Agnes and Egerton Castle. London: Smith, Elder. 1905. 6s.

The Incomparable Bellairs, as her admirers will remember, was always ready to encourage a wife who held herself ill-used, and the happy marriage of Mistress Bellairs with my Lord Kilcrouney has left that sprightly matron as full of mischief as before. Thus when Lady Anne Day, brought up at Versailles and wedded to a home-loving English squire, began to pine for the pleasures of the town, she had a powerful ally at hand. The theme of the pretty imprudent young wife ignorantly adventuring herself among pitfalls is not new, but Mr. and Mrs. Egerton Castle make it amusing, and have caught the atmosphere of Georgian London. As we have hinted, the present book will be better enjoyed by readers of the "Bath Comedy" than by newcomers. Mr. Day, the strong silent Englishman, half maddened by his bride's caprices, is yet ever at hand to see that she takes no harm, and the story dances gaily along through routs and masquerades, duels and card-parties, Brooks' and Ranelagh. The texture is of the slightest, but skilfully woven.

NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS.

"The Cities of Umbria." By Edward Hutton. Illustrated by Albert Pisa. London: Methuen. 1905. 6s.

It is easy to see, reading between the lines of this book, that Mr. Hutton has the Heaven-sent gift of simplicity. But unfortunately he would appear to have no faith in his gift, for it is obscured throughout by an unhappy artificiality of style.

So with his sentiments: at times he talks in the strain of the decadents, at times as if he were a convinced Roman Catholic (is not that, too, a trick of the decadents?). When he writes enthusiastically of the "miracle of the mass", we are somehow unable to believe that he believes in either miracle or mass. So when he says that he lives only because Rome has given him life and the law by which he lives, he carries no conviction. Be it said at once that the book is interesting, shows knowledge, sympathetic insight, the warm-hearted temperament that carries a man flowingly into the recondite recesses of Italy's byeways. If we protest it is in sorrow, without a shade of anger. True one does lose patience at times at a seeming wanton extravagance of opinion, such as that the Blessed John of Parma "perhaps" tried to found "a new religion", or that it ever "seemed possible the world might become Franciscan rather than Christian". But in the midst of shadowy imaginings such as these we occasionally light upon the strongest manifestations of common sense, especially where the present day is concerned. Take, as an instance, the passage where he shows that Assisi is fast becoming an impossible resort for ordinary natural-minded folk: that evidences real penetration and profound discernment. "Concerned for the most part as he [S. Francis] was with the reality of the spiritual life and with poverty nothing would have disgusted him more than the enthusiastic sentimentality of those who, without understanding either him or his faith, come to worship him. Fountains of scent, oceans of unmeaning sentimental tears begin to surround his legend; a brutal excitement, a feeble consternation infest even the quiet spot where he lived and died; while a Protestant Frenchman has made his fame out of this saint of the Catholic Church, certainly to the satisfaction of the innumerable women who, with sighs, with outpourings of unsatisfied dreams, stay at Assisi or Perugia for a few days, on their way to and from Rome and Florence. Yes, S. Francis has conquered the world, but his victory would have made him weep." Yet side by side with such discerning sentiment we find expression of the uncritical dictum that the "Speculum Perfectionis" is a "legend of S. Francis earlier than any we possessed". This is just the disappointment of the book: we applaud delightedly on one page, and our equanimity is sorely tried on the next. Still it is the work of a genuine devotee of Italy, shedding much light as he goes, and if it needs to be studied critically it at least merits to be read lovingly.

"Ionica." By William Cory. With Biographical Introduction and Notes by Arthur C. Benson. London: George Allen. 1905. 2s. 6d.

We do not wonder that publishers are shy of poetry when we have a book like this before us. True it is a third edition, but how long has it taken to get to this state? It is close on thirty years since "Ionica II" was first issued by the Cambridge University Press and fourteen years since the second edition, which has at length been sold out, was published at Ruskin House. Yet William Cory did not miss by much being a poet near the front rank. There is graceful verse in "Ionica" no doubt, but much more that is unmistakable poetry. Take the two opening poems "Desiderato" and "After Reading Ajax". The one recalls some of the tenderest cantos of "In Memoriam", the other is equal to, perhaps finer than, Matthew Arnold's lines to Edward Quillinan: and we should not say that these poems were deliberately put in the forefront because the author thought them the best of his work. "Ionica" is of course well known to the few who recognise and care greatly for rare choice things in English poetry. Some of these do not hesitate a moment to put Cory's little work on the shelf which holds their favourite copies of Arnold, Tennyson, Keats and Wordsworth. He is no intruder in such company. But what a reproach to the reader of English literature of the last fifty years that not one educated man in a thousand has ever even heard of "Ionica" much less read a line of it. "Uncheered by Christian hopefulness", says Mr. Benson, "and yet strong in their belief in the ardours and passions of humanity, these poems may help us to remember and love the best of life, its days of sunshine and youth . . . its brave hopes and ardent impulses, which may be ours, if we are only loving and generous and high-hearted, to the threshold of the dark, and perhaps beyond".

"Calcutta Past and Present." By Kathleen Blechynden. London and Calcutta: Thacker. 1905. 7s. net.

The writer bears a name well known in Calcutta and has usefully spent the time passed in a place with which it is associated. She may dismiss the fear, discussed in her modest preface, that the place in its annals which she seeks to occupy has already been filled to exclusion by older and more exhaustive works, upon which she herself has also drawn. Her book is well conceived and well executed, and serves a useful purpose. One need not be a resident or even a visitor of Calcutta to enjoy this pleasant sketch of what this great city—now the second in the empire—and the life of its people

(Continued on page 788.)

During the 62 years of its existence . . .

THE MUTUAL LIFE

Insurance Company of New York

has received **£58,852,175** in interest, rent, and profits earned on its investments, being 28'9 per cent. of the total premiums received. This interest, rent, and profits have practically paid the death claims in every year of the Company's history, the average ratio for the 62 years being 94'5 per cent. Aside from interest and rents, the Company has earned **£3,652,402** as profit on its investments, and this amount has exceeded the total payments to officers and employees at the home office by **£284,261**.

Total Income for 62 Years, £261,055,733.

This has been used as follows:—

Paid to Policy-holders, or held in Trust for them	82'3 p.c.
Agents or Agency Expenses	10'5 p.c.
Management and Care of Funds	5'9 p.c.
Salaries at Head Office	1'3 p.c.
	100 p.c.

Full information about the Company and its Policies on application to the
HEAD OFFICE FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM:
16, 17 & 18 CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C. D. C. HALDEMAN,
General Manager.

GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.
[Mortgages.] ESTABLISHED 1837. [Annuities.]
CAPITAL—£1,000,000. FUNDS IN HAND—£2,000,000.
Chief Office: **103 CANNON STREET, LONDON, E.C.**

Board of Directors.

ALFRED JAMES SHEPHEARD, Esq., Chairman.
LORD ARTHUR CECIL, Deputy Chairman.

JOHN ROBERT FREEMAN, Esq.
HON. R. C. GROSVENOR.
WILLIAM MULLER, Esq.
CHARLES PRICE, Esq.

ROBERT HENRY SCOTT, Esq., F.R.S.,
D.Sc.
THOS. MCKINNON WOOD, Esq., LL.D.

Double advantage policies issued securing TWO PAYMENTS of the amount assured—one payment on the attainment of a specific age, and a second payment at death thereafter.
Advances made on Reversions, vested or contingent, and Life Interests, and on Personal Security in connection with a Life Policy.

JOHN ROBERT FREEMAN, Manager and Secretary.

ALLIANCE

Assurance Company, Limited.

Head Office: **Bartholomew Lane, London, E.C.**

Chairman:

The Right Hon. LORD ROTHSCHILD, G.C.V.O.

Invested Funds exceed £11,000,000.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

Premiums.—The rates of premium charged will be found below the average rates of British offices, both for with-profit and without-profit business.

Expenses.—The total annual expenses, including commission, charged to the Life Department are restricted to 10 per cent. of the net premiums received.

NOTE.—The average rate of expenditure of British Life Offices is 13'7 per cent. of the premiums.

Profits.—Policy-holders assuring with profits, receive four-fifths of the total profits derivable from the Company's Life Department. These profits are large, and at the last two valuations have permitted reversionary bonuses in the new series to be declared at the rate of 40s. per cent. per annum on sums assured and on previous bonuses. The next valuation will be made after December 31st, 1908.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Premiums.—The rates of premium are determined according to the various classes of risks, and services of skilled surveyors are always available to inspect risks, to quote premiums, and to assist the public in arranging their insurances.

Policy Conditions.—The Policy Conditions have recently been simplified.

Settlements.—All claims are settled in the most prompt and liberal manner.

For full particulars apply to any of the Company's Offices or Agents.
ROBERT LEWIS, General Manager.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY
(LIMITED)

HOLBORN BAR, LONDON, E.C.

INVESTED FUNDS - - - £55,000,000.

Clergy Mutual

Assurance Society, 1829.

OPEN TO THE
CLERGY AND THEIR RELATIVES.
ALL PROFITS BELONG TO THE MEMBERS.

LOW PREMIUMS—LARGE BONUSES—ABSOLUTE SECURITY.
Funds, **£4,194,485.** Income, **£398,982.**
Bonuses Distributed, **£3,723,720.**

Assurances can be readily effected by direct communication with the Office.
2 & 3 The Sanctuary, Westminster, S.W.

DISTINCTIVE SYSTEM

OF ASSURANCE.

Low Premiums. Low Expenses.

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.

LONDON: 17 KING WILLIAM STREET, E.C.
WEST END: 17 PALL MALL, S.W.
HEAD OFFICE: 6 ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH.

NORWICH UNION

MUTUAL LIFE OFFICE.

NEW BUSINESS for 1904, £3,500,000.

"Among the most economically managed of British Life Assurance Companies."—SATURDAY REVIEW.

4 PER CENT. INCREASING POLICY.
and other Attractive Schemes.

SEND FOR PARTICULARS TO DEPT. 11,
Norwich Union Life Office, NORWICH.

BRITISH EQUITABLE

Assurance Company, Limited.

CAPITAL **£500,000**
ACCUMULATED FUNDS **£1,815,507**
PAID IN CLAIMS **£3,126,375**

LIFE
FIRE
ACCIDENT
BURGLARY

1, 2, & 3 QUEEN STREET PLACE, LONDON, E.C.

GRESHAM LIFE OFFICE

Founded 1848.

TEN YEARS' PROGRESS.

Annual Income	1894 - - - -	£1,012,786
	1904 - - - -	£1,348,669
Assets	1894 - - - -	£5,536,659
	1904 - - - -	£9,014,532
Payments under Policies	1894 - - - -	£12,173,703
	1904 - - - -	£20,474,666

Head Office: **ST. MILDRED'S HOUSE, POULTRY, LONDON, E.C.**
JAMES H. SCOTT, General Manager and Secretary.
THE GRESHAM LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, LIMITED.

used to be. Naturally such a book abounds in names that are part of history and it throws more light on their social surroundings and their daily life than falls within the sphere of the more extended annals in which they figure largely. The illustrations are carefully chosen and, with some plans and maps, afford interesting contrasts between now and then. We can recommend the work to those who would know something of the life of a bygone generation of the English in Bengal.

Mr. L. R. Levett has rendered into English verse some fifty poems of Catullus, odes, lines to Lesbia, epigrams and fables. The book is nicely printed, and published at Cambridge by Heffer. Mr. Levett hastens to tell us in his preface that he is neither a great poet nor a great scholar, and that he claims no special qualifications for his task. That he is not a great poet is manifest, but he has a distinct gift of verse, and his taste is not at fault. We have read with pleasure a good many of the poems in this agreeable little volume. Several of the Lesbia verses strike us as well above the average of such work, and the "Dedication to Cornelius" is uncommonly neat. The notes at the end of the volume are pithy and sometimes informing.

"Revue des Deux Mondes." 1 Décembre. 3fr.

There is an unsigned article in this number upon "Political Equilibrium and Diplomacy" which repays study. The writer is evidently behind the scenes and his plea on behalf of the approaching Hague Conference seems worth consideration for it is based on common sense and does not make too large a call on our credulity. His main thesis is that all international relations tend to equilibrium, that a State sometimes enjoys, owing to fortuitous circumstances, a much more distinguished position in the European hierarchy than its real strength entitles it to. This was the case with Austria in the first half of the last century. In time she was found out. The difficulty of arbitration arises from the fact that few nations recognise their true value in the international scale, when honour and national dignity come into play then of course arbitration is impossible. Diplomacy no longer can be conducted by the tortuous methods of the past and the ambassador who tries to score on his country's behalf by concealing facts or misrepresenting them is certain under modern conditions to be found out. In modern times the advantage lies in taking one's stand on the realities of the situation. The writer's contention is here undoubtedly borne out by the history of Bismarck. M. Charmes writes with sympathetic insight on the political crisis in England and points out that a similar change of government in France just before the election would mean a great accession of strength to the new comers. In this country happily neither party gains seats by the possession of the administration.

For this Week's Books see page 790.

Barr's ANNUAL CASH CLEARANCE SALE

Of Spring-Flowering Bulbs—

Daffodils, Hyacinths, Tulips, Crocuses, Scillas, Irises, &c., all in best quality and at greatly reduced prices.

Clearance Lists on Application.

BARR & SONS,

11, 12 and 13 KING STREET, COVENT GARDEN, LONDON.

Dr. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLORODYNE.

THE ORIGINAL AND ONLY GENUINE.



Admitted by the Profession to be the most Valuable Remedy ever discovered.

Effectually cuts short all attacks of SPASMS.

The only Palliative in NEURALGIA, TOOTHACHE, COLIC, RHEUMATISM.

Acts like a charm in DIARRHŒA, CHOLERA, and DYSENTERY.

The Best Remedy known for COUGHS, COLDS, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS, CONSUMPTION.

Overwhelming Medical Testimony accompanies each bottle.

Sold in Bottles by all Chemists, at 1/1½, 2/6, and 4/6 each.

To H.M. the King.

BUCHANAN'S "SPECIAL" (RED SEAL) SCOTCH WHISKY

To H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

THE CHILDREN'S BREAKFAST.

Cooked in 4 minutes.



Contains 70 per cent. more Protein than other oats. PACKETS, 6d.

Everybody knows
that

EPPS'S

is an admirable food,
the nicest and most nutritious
beverage for the breakfast table.
It is made in a moment with
boiling water or milk, and its
sustaining qualities are

COCOA

Invaluable
to all.

ORIENT-PACIFIC LINE TO AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, & TASMANIA. ROYAL MAIL SERVICE.

LEAVE LONDON EVERY ALTERNATE FRIDAY for the above COLONIES, calling at PLYMOUTH, GIBRALTAR, MARSEILLES, NAPLES, PORT SAID, and COLOMBO.

Managers: F. GREEN & CO., ANDERSON, ANDERSON & CO., Head Offices: Fenchurch Avenue, London.

For Passage apply to the latter firm at 5 Fenchurch Avenue, E.C., or to the Branch Office, 28 Cockspur Street, Charing Cross, S.W.

POOLE & LORD

INDIAN AND GENERAL OUTFITTERS,

322 OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.

(NEARLY OPPOSITE BOND STREET.)

INVENTORS OF THE
"Sans-Plis" SHIRT.

Prices from 7s. 6d.

The "SANS-PLIS" Shirt is superior to any other for Indian and Colonial wear. Being entirely free from gathers, it is cooler, much stronger, and will bear the Indian mode of washing better than any shirt in use.

A single shirt, or other article, made to measure, and accurate patterns preserved to ensure correctness in the execution of future orders.

Makers of Drawers with Flexible Hip Belt Bands.

"BREECHES CUT."

NATIONAL DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.

Subscribed Capital	£4,233,385
Paid Up	846,665
Reserve Fund	400,000

Notice is hereby given that the present RATES OF INTEREST allowed for money on deposit are as follows:—

Two and a Half per Cent. per annum at call.

Two and Three Quarters per Cent. at seven and fourteen days' notice.

PHILIP HAROLD WADE, Manager

WATKIN W. WILLIAMS, Sub-Manager.

Approved mercantile bills discounted. Loans granted upon negotiable securities. Money received on deposit at call and short notice at the current market rates, and for longer periods upon specially agreed terms.

No. 25 Cornhill, E.C., 15th December 1905.

INDISPUTABLE TESTIMONY

—to the artistic supremacy of the—

METROSTYLE PIANOLA

THE CHRISTMAS PURCHASE DE LUXE.

THE significance of the following endorsements lies in the fact that they prove without a doubt that the Metrostyle Pianola is the best of all piano-players.

The opinions are those of living authorities, and although exigencies of space permit of only a few appearing here, the Metrostyle Pianola has received similar endorsements from almost all the famous musicians.

The authoritative statements below are concrete and definite, and must unmistakably show you that no other piano-player even approaches the Metrostyle Pianola in its power of providing you with real, constant and artistic pleasure.

"The Metrostyle places the Pianola beyond all competitors. It makes the Pianola interesting and instructive to pianists as well as to those who cannot play the piano. The Metrostyle will enable anyone to play the rolls that I mark in the tempo of each composition as I interpret it."

JOSEPH HOFMANN.

"The execution of expression one can produce in piano-playing by means of the Pianola is marvellous, and the Metrostyle enables one to play in the exact tempo interpreted by great pianists."

FRITZ KREISLER.

"The Metrostyle makes the Pianola of the greatest artistic value, and places it in a musical position far ahead of any other instrument of this nature."

MARK HAMBURG.

"The Metrostyle shows perfectly the delicate gradations of tempo as interpreted by the different great artistes."

JOSEPH SLIVINSKI.

"The Pianola is marvellous. When I heard the Metrostyle reproduce Paderewski's interpretation of Chopin's Nocturne, it really seemed as though the great artiste himself were playing."

ANDREAS DIPPEL.

"I consider the Metrostyle indispensable to the Pianola, and I have indicated my interpretation of several compositions with great interest."

I. J. PADEREWSKI.

The same unstinted praise has been bestowed by Caruso, Calvé, de Pachmann, de Reszke, Kubelik, Grieg, Moszkowski, Plançon, Sauer, Von Dohnanyi, &c. &c.

The Metrostyle Pianola costs £63. But we have also many ordinary models and second-hand Pianolas which have been taken back in part payment for the Metrostyle. In fact we have instruments at all prices, and every one of them bears our full guarantee for soundness and artistic merit.

You are invited to call at Æolian Hall, or write for full particulars, specifying Catalogue A.D.

THE ORCHESTRELLE COMPANY,

ÆOLIAN HALL, 135-6-7 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W.

SECOND IMPRESSION.

WILLIAM RATHBONE.

A Memoir.

By ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

Illustrated. Extra crown 8vo. 7s. 6d. net.

Times.—"A good example of what a biography ought to be."*Speaker*.—"It is difficult to praise too highly the skill and judgment with which this Memoir has been executed.....It is rare indeed to read a biography at once so reticent and so sufficient, so simple and yet so effective.....No student of political or social questions can read this memoir without feeling his interest quicken and his faith fortified by this noble example of a good and great citizen."*Westminster Gazette*.—"For the light it throws on the guiding principles and the personal characteristics of a keen and very successful business man, it should be invaluable to young men especially. Mr. Rathbone did not allow his life to drift; all its interests and occupations were conducted on a well-settled plan."*Inquirer*.—"A memoir in which the life of the nation and the great movements of the time are pictured in true proportions as necessary for the adequate portraiture of such a man."*Guardian*.—"The always attractive likeness of a good man who was also a strong man. The record of Mr. Rathbone's parliamentary career will be found instructive and encouraging by those who dissent most from his political views, as showing how much the really independent member weighs even under the régime of the caucus, how practically useful he can be, and how loyal to party ties without loss of self-respect."

MACMILLAN & CO., LTD., LONDON.

FIFTH THOUSAND.

SIR IAN HAMILTON'S
Splendid Book on the War.A STAFF OFFICER'S
SCRAP-BOOK.

By LIEUTENANT-GENERAL

SIR IAN HAMILTON, K.C.B.,

British Attaché with the Japanese Army.

With numerous Maps and Illustrations. Demy 8vo. 18s. net.

London: EDWARD ARNOLD, 41 and 43 Maddox Street, W.

By Request of the Japanese Red Cross.

MRS. RICHARDSON was the only lady to be invited by the Japanese to assist in their military hospitals; and she has written this book at their request.

IN JAPANESE HOSPITALS
DURING WAR TIME.

With numerous Illustrations.

By MRS. RICHARDSON. 6s. net.

A DELIGHTFUL CHRISTMAS GIFT.

"Mrs. Richardson had time between the bandaging to notice many things.In reading this book one feels an even greater sympathy with the curious and clever people who seem to have reached salvation through beatitude." *Daily Chronicle*."A wonderful story.....a remarkably interesting book.....charming by reason of its simplicity.....deserves a place on the shelves of every library, public and private."—*S.W. Daily News*."A record of absorbing interest."—*Western Mail*.

BLACKWOODS.

NOVEMBER SUPPLEMENT TO
GLAISHER'S REMAINDER BOOK CATALOGUE

IS NOW READY.

Extensive Purchases of Publishers' Reminders at Greatly Reduced Prices.

WILLIAM GLAISHER, Remainder and Discount Bookseller,
265 HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON.

Also Catalogue of Popular Current Literature, Popular Reprints, &c.

THIS WEEK'S BOOKS.

ART

- J. M. W. Turner (W. L. Wyllie), 7s. 6d. net; The Art of the National Gallery (J. De Wolf Addison), 6s. net. Bell.
The Art of Portrait Painting (Hon. John Collier). Cassell. 10s. 6d. net.
The Art Journal Volume for 1905. Virtue. 21s. net.

BIOGRAPHY

- Memoirs of General Sir Henry Dermot Daly, G.C.B., C.I.E. (Major H. Daly). Murray. 15s. net.
Sixty Years' Stage Service: being a Record of the Life of Charles Morton (W. H. Morton and H. Chance Newton). Gale and Polden. 3s. 6d.
Descartes: His Life and Times (Elizabeth S. Haldane). Murray. 15s. net.

CHRISTMAS BOOKS

- Starlight Stories ("Hob"). Illustrated by Dorothy Hilton. Moring.

FICTION

- The Fulfilment (Edith Allonby). Greening. 6s.
Heart's Desire (Emerson Hough). Macmillan. 6s.
In the Land of the Gods (Alice Mabel Bacon). Constable. 6s.
The Green Shay (George S. Wasson). Constable. 6s.
"They" (Rudyard Kipling). Macmillan. 6s.
The Might of a Wrong-doer (Shirley Brice); The Silent Passenger (G. W. Appleton). Long. 6s. each.
A Vendetta in Vanity Fair (Esther Miller). Heinemann. 6s.
The Expiation of Eugene (Frederic H. Balfour); A Prophet of Wales (Max Baring). Greening. 6s. each.

HISTORY

- Historical and Modern Atlas of the British Empire (C. Grant Robertson and J. G. Bartholomew). Methuen. 4s. 6d. net.
Gleanings from Venetian History (F. Marion Crawford. 2 vols.). Macmillan. 21s. net.
Medieval Towns: Cambridge (C. W. Stubbs). Dent. 4s. 6d. net.
A History of Modern England (Herbert Paul. Vol. IV.). Macmillan. 8s. 6d. net.
Ecclesia Antiqua, or the History of an Ancient Church (Rev. John Ferguson). Oliver and Boyd. 7s. 6d. net.
The Art of Attack: . . . a Study in the Development of Weapons . . . (H. S. Cowper). Ulverston; Holmes. 10s. net.

NATURAL HISTORY AND SPORT

- A Shooting Catechism (Colonel R. F. Meysey-Thompson). Arnold. 3s. 6d. net.
Creatures of the Night (Alfred W. Rees). Murray. 6s. net.

REPRINTS AND TRANSLATIONS

- The Poems of William Cowper (Edited by J. C. Bailey). Methuen. 10s. 6d. net.
Richard Peeke of Tavistock: His Three to One, the Commendatory Verses, and the Play of Dick of Devonshire (Introduction by J. Brooking Rowe). Exeter: Comm. in.
Wordsworth's Literary Criticism (Edited with an Introduction by Nowell C. Smith). Frowde. 2s. 6d. net.
A History of Our Own Times (Justin McCarthy. 3 vols.). Chatto and Windus. 6s. net.
Machiavelli: Vol. I.: The Art of War (Translated by Percy Whitehome), and The Prince (Translated by Edward Dacres); Vol. II.: The Florentine History (Translated by Thomas Bedingfield), with Introductions by Henry Cust. Nutt. 15s. net each.
The Works of Beaumont and Fletcher (Variorum Edition. Vol. II.), 10s. 6d. net; The Essays of Michel de Montaigne (Cotton's Translation. Revised by W. C. Hazlitt. 3 vols.). 6s. net. Bell.
Translations into Greek Verse and Prose (R. D. Archer-Hind). Cambridge: At the University Press. 6s. net.
The Poetical Works of William Blake (with Notes &c. by John Sampson). Oxford: At the Clarendon Press. 10s. 6d. net.
Portraits of the Eighteenth Century, Historic and Literary (C. A. Sainte-Beuve. Translated by Katharine P. Wormeley. 2 vols.). Putnam. 21s. net.
The Poetical Works of Lord Byron (Edited, with a Memoir, by Ernest Hartley Coleridge). Murray. 6s. net.
In Memoriam (Alfred Lord Tennyson). Macmillan. 5s. net.
The Tragedy of Coriolanus (Edited by A. W. Verity). Cambridge: At the University Press. 3s.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Canker at the Heart, The: Studies . . . of the Poor . . . (L. Cope Cornford). E. Grant Richards. 3s. 6d. net.
Debrett's Peerage 1906. Dean. 31s. 6d. net.
Folk-Lore of Women (T. F. Thiselton-Dyer). Stock. 6s.
In our Convent Days (Agnes Repplier). Constable. 5s. net.
In the Good Old Times (H. Wright). Stock. 6s. net.
In Japanese Hospitals during War Time (Mrs. Richardson). Blackwood. 6s. net.
London Vanished and Vanishing (Painted and Described by Philip Norman). Black. 20s. net.
Modern Symposium, A (G. Lowes Dickinson). Brimley Johnson. 2s. 6d. net.
Poetry and Criticism, Studies in (John Churton Collins). Bell. 6s. net.
Political Caricatures—1905 (F. Carruthers Gould). Arnold. 6s. net.
Thread of Gold, The. Murray. 8s. net.
Walpole, Horace, Letters of (Mrs. Paget Toynbee. Vol. XVI.: Tables and Indices). Oxford: At the Clarendon Press. 6s. net.
Who's Who 1906. Black. 7s. 6d. net.

MACMILLAN & CO.'S LIST.

'THEY.' By Rudyard Kipling.

With Illustrations in Colour by F. H. TOWNSEND. 8vo. 6s.

THE ARMY OF A DREAM. By Rudyard Kipling.

Crown 8vo. sewed, 6d. net.

IMPORTANT NEW WORK ON ART BY MR. HOLMAN HUNT.

PRE-RAPHAELITISM AND THE PRE-RAPHAELITE BROTHERHOOD.

By W. HOLMAN HUNT, O.M., D.C.L. With 40 Photogravure Plates and other Illustrations. 2 vols. 8vo. 42s. net.

DAILY TELEGRAPH.—"A work of extraordinary interest to all, whether they be experts or amateurs, who wish to understand the most remarkable movement in English art in the middle of last century."

NEW WORK BY THE AUTHOR OF "MANCHU AND MUSCOVITE."

THE RE-SHAPING OF THE FAR EAST.

By B. L. PUTNAM WEALE. With Illustrations and Map. 2 vols. 8vo. 25s. net.

DAILY CHRONICLE.—"Mr. Weale may claim to have written the most up-to-date work on the Chinese problem, an illuminating work which should be read by every serious student of international politics in the Far East."

NEW BOOK ON VENICE BY MR. MARION CRAWFORD.

GLEANINGS FROM VENETIAN HISTORY.

By F. MARION CRAWFORD. With 225 Illustrations by JOSEPH PENNELL. 2 vols. extra crown 8vo. 21s. net.

DAILY GRAPHIC.—"Mr. Crawford has told the whole fascinating story of Venice from first to last with his usual accuracy and power, and his volumes are illustrated by many examples of Mr. Joseph Pennell's best work."

VOL. IV. NOW READY.

A HISTORY OF
MODERN ENGLAND.

By HERBERT PAUL.

In 5 vols. Vol. IV., 1875-85. 8vo. 8s. 6d. net.

** Previously published, Vols. I.-III. 8s. 6d. net each.

Prof. T. F. TOUT, in the "MORNING POST."—"Men of all parties and of none can find, we imagine, as sound and careful a treatment of the period as we are likely to get until at a later age the real sources of our knowledge become open and the hidden meaning of what is now dark becomes clear to us. There are few readers who will not derive both pleasure and instruction from a treatise which will deservedly be widely read."

By the Late CANON AINGER.

LECTURES AND ESSAYS.

2 vols. crown 8vo. 15s. net.

"There can hardly be a better sketch of the greatest career in literature than Ainger's three lectures on the three stages of Shakespeare's art."—TIMES.

LORD AVEBURY'S NEW BOOK.

NOTES ON THE LIFE HISTORY OF
BRITISH FLOWERING PLANTS.

By LORD AVEBURY. Illustrated. 8vo. 15s. net.

CHEAPER EDITION NOW READY.

LIFE AND LETTERS OF
BROOKE FOSS WESTCOTT,

D.D., D.C.L. By his Son, ARTHUR WESTCOTT.

Abridged Edition. Extra crown 8vo. 8s. 6d. net.

BOOKS FOR THE YOUNG.
MICKY.

By EVELYN SHARP. Illustrated by H. M. BROCK. Crown 8vo. 4s. 6d.

PALL MALL GAZETTE.—"Likely to entertain a wonderful number of young people during this winter and many more to come. Thoroughly inviting, readable, and worthy to be remembered."

By WALTER C. PERRY.

THE BOY'S ODYSSEY.

Illustrated by JACOMB HOOD. Crown 8vo. 6s.

THE BOY'S ILIAD.

Illustrated by JACOMB HOOD. Crown 8vo. 6s.

RECOLLECTIONS.

BY

WILLIAM O'BRIEN, M.P.

With Photogravure Portraits. 8vo. 14s. net.

DAILY CHRONICLE.—"Apart from the self-revelation and the political drama of the book—to all of which no quotation could do justice—there are delightful personal reminiscences. Mr. O'Brien's book leaves the impression of a vivid and exceptional personality."

IN MEMORIAM.

By ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON. With Notes by the Author. Edited by HALLAM, LORD TENNYSON. Fcp. 8vo. 5s. net.

CHEAPER ISSUE.

ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON.

A Memoir by his Son, HALLAM, LORD TENNYSON. With Portrait and Facsimiles. Extra crown 8vo. 6s.

HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS SERIES.—New Vol.

OXFORD AND THE COTSWOLDS.

By HERBERT A. EVANS.

With Illustrations by FREDERICK L. GRIGGS. Crown 8vo. 6s.

THE CRANFORD SERIES.—New Volume.

THACKERAY'S ESMOND.

With an Introduction by AUSTIN DOBSON, and Illustrations by HUGH THOMSON.

Crown 8vo. cloth extra, gilt edges, 6s.

ESSAYS ON ECONOMICS.

By H. STANLEY JEVONS, M.A., B.Sc., F.G.S.

Crown 8vo. 5s. net.

CANTABRIGIA ILLUSTRATA
BY DAVID LOGGAN, 1690.

A Reproduction in folio with Plates averaging 11 in. by 9 in., with the scarce Portrait of the Duke of Somerset in Photogravure. Edited with an Introduction, Life of Loggan, and description of each view by J. W. CLARK, M.A., F.S.A., Registry of the University. 2 guineas net.

Macmillan's New Illustrated Catalogue post free on application.

MACMILLAN & CO., LIMITED, London.

LONDON LIBRARY, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE, S.W.

Patron—HIS MAJESTY THE KING.
President—The Right Hon. A. J. BALFOUR, M.P.
Vice-Presidents—The Right Hon. VISCOUNT GOSCHEN; FREDERIC HARRISON, Esq.; GEORGE MEREDITH, Esq.; ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE, Esq., F.R.S.
Trustees—EARL OF ROSEBURY, K.G.; Right Hon. LORD AVEBURY, F.R.S.; Right Hon. Sir M. GRANT DUFF, G.C.S.I.

Committee—Sir Rowland Blennerhassett, Bart., L.L.D., Dr. J. H. Bridges, Horace T. Brown, Esq., F.R.S., Prof. Ingram Bywater, Prof. Lewis Campbell, L.L.D., Austin Dobson, Esq., L.L.D., Sydney Gedge, Esq., Sir A. Geikie, F.R.S., Sir R. Giffen, K.C.B., F.R.S., Edmund Gosse, Esq., L.L.D., Mrs. J. R. Green, Rev. W. Hunt, M.A., L.L.D., Sir C. P. Ilbert, K.C.S.I., Sir C. M. Kennedy, K.C.M.G., C.B., Sidney Lee, Esq., L.L.D., W. S. Lilly, Esq., Sidney J. Low, Esq., Sir Frank T. Marzials, C.B., Sir F. Pollock, Bart., Rev. J. H. Rigg, D.D., J. R. Tedder, Esq., Rev. H. Wace, D.D., Sir Spencer Walpole, K.C.B., A. W. Ward, Esq., L.L.D., L.L.D.

The Library contains about 220,000 Volumes of Ancient and Modern Literature, in various Languages. Subscription, 3*l.* 3*s.* a year, with an entrance fee of 1*l.* 1*s.*; Life Membership, according to age. Fifteen Volumes are allowed to Country and Ten to Town Members. Reading-Room Open from Ten to Half-past Six. The NEW CATALOGUE (1626 pp. 4to, 1903) is now ready, price 2*s.* 2*s.*; to Members, 2*s.* 6*d.*

"ONE OF THE MOST SAGACIOUS AND JUDICIOUSLY LIBERAL MEN I HAVE EVER KNOWN, THE LATE LORD DERBY, SAID THERE WAS A KIND OF MAN TO WHOM THE BEST SERVICE THAT COULD BE RENDERED WAS TO MAKE HIM A LIFE MEMBER OF THE LONDON LIBRARY." (W. E. H. LECKY.)

C. T. HAGBERG WRIGHT, L.L.D., *Secretary and Librarian.*

Eleventh Edition. Revised and Enlarged Up to Date.
Price 5*s.* net. Post free, 5*s.* 6*d.*

THE CAMPAIGN GUIDE, 1905.

A Handbook for Unionist Speakers.

PART I.—IMPERIAL AFFAIRS. PART II.—HOME AFFAIRS.
PART III.—ELECTION PROBLEMS.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

THE TIMES.—"We can recommend 'The Campaign Guide,'.....A noteworthy contribution to the Campaign literature.....Well known and appreciated."
THE SCOTSMAN.—"The volume is one which every upholder of the Union during the Campaign will be able to recognise as a trustworthy companion."
LIVERPOOL COURIER.—"It is a perfect storehouse of facts and arguments, and its carefully arranged index adds to its value."

Edinburgh: DAVID DOUGLAS, 10 Castle Street.

H. SOTHERAN & CO., BOOKSELLERS.

GENERAL AGENTS FOR PRIVATE BOOKBUYERS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA, THE COLONIES, AMERICA, AND ABROAD.

A Monthly Catalogue of fresh Purchases. Specimen number post free.
LIBRARIES PURCHASED OR VALUED AND CATALOGUED AND ARRANGED.

Telegraphic Address: BOOKMEN, LONDON. Codes: UNICODE and A B C.
Telephone: CENTRAL 1515.

140 STRAND, W.C., and 37 PICCADILLY, W., LONDON.

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS.—A. and F. Denny have just issued a List of the most Recent and Noteworthy Books of the Season, including Books for Children and for Presents. Post-free on application to A. and F. DENNY, 147 Strand, W.C.

EARLY BRITISH MASTERS.—SHEPHERD'S WINTER EXHIBITION includes choice Portraits and Landscapes by the Masters of the Early British School. SHEPHERD'S GALLERY, 27 King Street, St. James's.

NEW THEATRE.—CHARLES WYNDHAM.—

Every Evening at 8.0. Matinée, To-day and Wednesday, at 3.0.
"CAPTAIN DREW ON LEAVE." By HUBERT HENRY DAVIES.
CHARLES WYNDHAM, Miss MARION TERRY and Miss MARY MOORE.

SALES BY AUCTION.

AUTOGRAPH LETTERS, HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS, &c., THE PROPERTY OF THE LATE MR. FREDERICK BARKER.

MESSRS. SOTHEBY, WILKINSON & HODGE will SELL by AUCTION, at their House, No. 13 Wellington Street, Strand, W.C., on MONDAY, December 18, and two following days, at One o'clock precisely, AUTOGRAPH LETTERS, HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS, &c., the property of the late Mr. FREDERICK BARKER (sold by order of the Executrix).

May be viewed. Catalogues may be had.

VALUABLE MILITARY, MATHEMATICAL AND STANDARD MISCELLANEOUS BOOKS, FROM THE LIBRARY OF THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, CAMBERLEY.

Sold by Order of His Majesty's Stationery Office.

MESSRS. HODGSON & CO. will SELL by Auction, at their Rooms, 115 Chancery Lane, W.C., on WEDNESDAY, December 20, and following day, at One o'clock, the above VALUABLE LIBRARY, comprising a very extensive and interesting collection of Works, both English and Foreign, Military History, Fortifications, Tactics, Cavalry, Horsemanship, Administration, &c., including several early Treatises, such as Sir John Smythe's Discourses of Divers Sorts of Weapons, 1590; Sir Roger Williams's Briefe Discourses of Warre, 1590; Clayton's Order of Martial Discipline, 1591; Markham's Souldiers Grammar, 1639; and Elton's Art Military, 1659. Four interesting Volumes of MS. Copies and Extracts of Documents referring to the Military Operations during the American War of Independence, 1775-83; Histories of Campaigns from the Sixteenth to the Nineteenth Centuries; Military Biographies and Books relating to Napoleon and Wellington; a Set of the scarce Historical Records of the British Army, with coloured plates, 68 vols.; a large Collection of Valuable Books on Mathematics, Physics and Astronomy, including the writings of Newton, La Place, Montucla, and others, and the early portion of the Royal Astronomical Society's Memoirs; Topographical and Antiquarian Books; Standard Historical Works, English and Foreign; Master of the Rolls Publications; the Byzantine Classics, 46 vols.; and other Foreign, Classical and Philological Works; Early Editions and Scarce Sets of the Elizabethan and Jacobean Dramatists and Poets, including Davenant's Works in folio, with the rare portrait; Lyly's Six Court Comedies, 1632; and the works of Webster, Beaumont and Fletcher, Shirley, Dryden, Shadwell and many others. To be viewed and Catalogues had.

Mr. HENRY J. DRANE'S

NEW BOOKS NOT TO BE MISSED.

NOW READY. ON SALE EVERYWHERE. SIXPENCE.

TOM BROWNE'S ANNUAL

Contributions by *Mestyn Pigott, Harold Begbie, Robert Overton, Mallet Ellis*, and others; and by the leading Artist in humour, *TOM BROWNE* himself.

"One of the most welcome and brightest of Christmas numbers it has so far been our good fortune to see."—*Sporting Life*.

TOM BROWNE'S ANNUAL is the Most Amusing Sixpennyworth published this year.

Of all Booksellers, or a copy sent post free for 7 stamps direct from the publisher, HENRY J. DRANE, Salisbury House, Salisbury Square, E.C.

A VERY WEIRD STORY.

THE HORNE OWL.

By W. BOURNE COOKE. Price 6*s.*

"Readers who love sensational stories will enjoy this book."—*Dundee Courier*.
"The author has a real gift for creepiness."—*Morning Leader*.
"Readers cannot better the story connected with the capture and thefts of this weird bird.....The author has written a good story."—*Pall Mall Gazette*.
"Eerie and mysteriousness are strongly in evidence in 'The Horne Owl'..... An exciting story of mystery."—*Scotsman*.

Greatly Daring.

THE DRUMS OF FATE.

By ROBERT HALIFAX. Price 6*s.*

A RARE AND STRIKING TESTIMONY.

G. R. SIMS says: "If you want to read a book quite out of the common, read 'The Drums of Fate,' by Robert Halifax. The principal character is a girl who sells flowers near the Angel at Islington, and she talks the true talk and behaves exactly like what she is. 'Jo' Galilee is as original as any petticoat that has flitted across the fiction of the twentieth century."
"The Drums of Fate, greatly daring, has shown us the heart of a primitive woman—a heart naked and unshamed, with all its passion and potentialities, its ugliness and its tender beauty."

A Remarkable Book.

THE DRUMS OF FATE.

By ROBERT HALIFAX. Price 6*s.*

"One of the finest tales of London life which has been written for some years."—*Morning Leader*.

A Great Success.

THE DRUMS OF FATE.

By ROBERT HALIFAX. Price 6*s.*

"With wild and passionate haste, a strange figure rushes through these pages.Mr. Halifax knows his London and its people thoroughly."—*Scotsman*.

REMINISCENCES OF A POOR HUNTING

MAN. Being Sundry Episodes in the Life of Charles Willsillon, told by Himself. Edited by HAROLD TREMAYNE, Author of "Two Women" &c. Price 2*s.* 6*d.* net.

AS THE SPARKS FLY UPWARD.

By LADY NAPIER OF MAGDALA. A Novel of High Life. Price 6*s.*

"Is powerfully written. . . . The interest in her career carries us spellbound through the book from the first chapter to the last."—*Dundee Courier*.

EVERYDAY LIFE.

By CONSTANCE LOGAN. Price 6*s.*

BARBARA LAVENDER.

By ROSE PERKINS. Price 6*s.*

TWO WOMEN OF KENT.

By NORA DOBELL. Price 6*s.*

THE CURSE AND IT WAS SO.

By ROMA DENE. Price 3*s.* 6*d.*

HER REUBEN.

By FRANCIS BANCROFT. A South African Novel. Price 6*s.*

THE DOOR ON THE LATCH.

By APPLEBY ELLIS, Author of "Puffs of Wind." Price 3*s.* 6*d.*

HENRY J. DRANE, Salisbury House, Salisbury Square, E.C.

1,000 BOOKS GIVEN AWAY

The Editor of the **DAILY MAIL YEAR-BOOK** is convinced that the contents and nature of the "Daily Mail Year-Book" have only to be known to secure for it as large a sale as that of the **Daily Mail** itself.

The **Year-Book** is a new book each year. It is a complete handbook to all the **Questions of the Day**, giving concise and lucid details of the problems which will interest men in the coming year. It deals with Social, Political, Financial, Educational, Commercial, Literary, Religious, and many other questions. It contains Special Articles by well-known men. It has a splendid Index by which its thousands of facts may be found with ease. It is a complete companion to the newspaper, and is unlike any other book published.

A BOOK FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION.

To induce people to read the **DAILY MAIL YEAR-BOOK**, and thus to know its value, the Editor makes this offer:

He will send ten volumes of the Harmsworth Library to each of the one hundred readers—**1,000 Books in all**—who will send to him the best criticism of the "Daily Mail Year-Book" for 1906.

No criticism to exceed one hundred words. The only other condition is that the criticism shall be written and sent to the Editor by January 31st, 1906, on the page left blank for that purpose.

THE

DAILY MAIL YEAR-BOOK for 1906

Price 1s. 6d., is Now Ready.

It can be had at any Bookseller's or Newsgent's, or will be sent post free for 1s. 10d. on sending to THE PUBLISHERS, Carmelite House, Carmelite St., E.C.

R. ANDERSON & CO.,

BRITISH, INDIAN, AND COLONIAL ADVERTISEMENT CONTRACTORS.

14 COCKSPUR STREET, CHARING CROSS, S.W.,

GIVE THE BEST TERMS for Company and General Advertising. Advice, Estimates, and all information free of charge. Replies received.

EDUCATION.

THE DOWNS SCHOOL, SEAFORD, SUSSEX.—

Head Mistress, Miss LUCY ROBINSON, M.A. (late Second Mistress, St. Felix School, Southwold). Special care given to individual development. Air very bracing from Downs and Sea. References: The Master of Peterhouse, Cambridge; the Principals of Bedford and Holloway Colleges, and others.

ELTHAM COLLEGE, KENT.

THE ROYAL NAVAL SCHOOL.

EXAMINATION for OPEN and other SCHOLARSHIPS, December 13th-15th.

Apply to the Head Master, Rev. A. E. RUBIE, D.D. Next term Jan. 17th.

RAND MINES, LIMITED.

FIVE PER CENT. DEBENTURES.

THE INTEREST due on the 1st of JANUARY, 1906, will be paid against presentation of COUPON No. 18.

IN LONDON—At the Offices of the Company, No. 1 London Wall Buildings, E.C.

IN JOHANNESBURG—At the Offices of the Company, The Corner House. COUPONS to be left FOUR CLEAR DAYS for examination, and to be presented at the London Office any day (SATURDAYS AND HOLIDAYS EXCEPTED) on and after FRIDAY, the 22nd of DECEMBER, 1905, between the hours of ELEVEN and TWO.

Listing Forms may be had on application.

By Order,

ANDREW MOIR, London Secretary.

London Office: No. 1 London Wall Buildings, E.C.,
13th December, 1905.

BONANZA, LIMITED.

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND No. 14.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN INTERIM DIVIDEND of 3½ per cent. (six shillings and sixpence per share) has been declared by the Board for the half-year ending 31st of DECEMBER, 1905.

This Dividend will be payable to all Shareholders registered in the books of the Company at the close of business on 30th of DECEMBER, 1905, and to holders of COUPON No. 14 attached to Share Warrants to Bearer.

The Transfer Books will be closed from 1st to 7th of JANUARY, 1906, both days inclusive.

The Dividend will be payable to South African registered Shareholders from the Head Office, Johannesburg, and to European Shareholders from the London Office, No. 1 London Wall Buildings, E.C., on or about the 5th of FEBRUARY, 1906.

Holders of SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER are informed that they will receive payment of the Dividend on presentation of COUPON No. 14 either at the Head Office of the Company, Johannesburg, or at the London Office.

Coupons must be left FOUR CLEAR DAYS for examination, and will be payable at any time on or after the 5th of FEBRUARY, 1906.

By Order of the Board,

ANDREW MOIR, London Secretary.

London Office: No. 1 London Wall Buildings, E.C.,
13th December, 1905.

ROBINSON GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND No. 27.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN INTERIM DIVIDEND of 9 per cent. (Nine Shillings per £1 Share) has been declared by the Board for the Half-year ending 31st of DECEMBER, 1905.

This Dividend will be payable to all Shareholders registered in the books of the Company at the close of business on 30th of DECEMBER, 1905, and to holders of COUPON No. 22 attached to Share Warrants to Bearer.

The Transfer Books will be closed from 1st to 7th of JANUARY, 1906, both days inclusive.

The Dividend will be payable to South African registered Shareholders from the Head Office, Johannesburg, and to European Shareholders from the London Office, No. 1 London Wall Buildings, E.C., on or about the 5th of FEBRUARY, 1906.

Holders of SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER are informed that they will receive payment of the Dividend on presentation of COUPON No. 22 at the London Office of the Company.

Coupons must be left FOUR CLEAR DAYS for examination, and will be payable at any time on or after the 5th of FEBRUARY, 1906.

By order of the Board,

ANDREW MOIR, London Secretary.

London Office: No. 1 London Wall Buildings, E.C.,
13th December, 1905.

MESSRS.

ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE & CO.'S

Special List of Books

SUITABLE AS GIFTS AND PRESENTS.

EMMA, LADY HAMILTON.

By WALTER SICHEL.

Profusely Illustrated with Coloured Plate, Portraits in Photogravure, &c.
Demy 8vo. 21s. net.

"An altogether admirable work, a book of absorbing interest and sterling merit. . . . A history as trustworthy and good of the life of Lady Hamilton as will ever be written."—*British Weekly*.

IN THE MARCH AND BORDERLAND OF WALES.

By A. G. BRADLEY. Illustrated with about 200 Sketches of the Country by W. M. MEREDITH. Imperial 8vo. 10s. 6d.

The *Fishing Gazette* says: "Lovingly exploited by this genial author. The volume ought to prove especially attractive to the Borderlanders. It is beautifully got up, and Mr. Meredith's over 200 sketches add greatly to the charm of the book."

Professor ERNEST RHYS, in the *Manchester Guardian*, says: "It is Welsh enough to be for Welsh folk an invigorating story; easy to read as a novel, infinitely more diverting than most novels of to-day."

MR. THOMPSON SETON'S NEW BOOK.

Sir HENRY SETON KARR says in *Vanity Fair*: "Mr. Thompson Seton can chain the attention of his readers and carry them along with him in sympathetic interest for his animal heroes. There is a human quality about the whole story that makes it quite impressive. The book is charmingly and characteristically illustrated."

MONARCH, THE BIG BEAR. By the Author of "The Lives of the Hunted," &c. With over 100 Drawings by the Author in half-tone and line. 5s. net.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

TWO LITTLE SAVAGES. Being the Adventures of Two Boys who Lived as Indians, and what they Learned. With over 300 Drawings by the Author. Post 8vo. cloth, 6s. net.

A PICTURE BOOK FOR "GROWN UPS."

THE STORY OF NOAH'S ARK. Coloured Pictures. Decorative Cover, End Papers and Letterpress by E. BOYD SMITH. Oblong folio, 6s.

A delightfully humorous book depicting what really happened (*vide* Mr. Boyd Smith) when Noah prepared for his famous journey.

KATE DOUGLAS WIGGIN'S CHRISTMAS BOOK.

"A writer whose books always form delightful reading."

DAILY TELEGRAPH.

ROSE O' THE RIVER. By the Author of "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm," &c. With 20 Coloured Illustrations. Price 5s.

"Miss Wiggin has a charm and style of her own, and they are at their best in this very pretty and humorous tale."—*Morning Post*.

"An idyllic story, replete with pathos and inimitable humour. As story-telling it is perfection, and as portrait-painting it is true to the life."—*Daily Mail*.

MR. JOHN FOX'S CHRISTMAS BOOK.

BLUE GRASS AND RHODODENDRON: Stories of Outdoor Life in Kentucky. By the Author of "The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come." Fully Illustrated. Bound in cloth, gilt extra, large crown 8vo. 6s. net.

FOR LOVERS OF NATURAL HISTORY.

EXTINCT ANIMALS. By E. RAY LANKESTER, F.R.S.

With over 200 Illustrations. Demy 8vo. 7s. 6d. net.

"Professor Lankester knows how to give in an attractive form a vast amount of information agreeably, and to excite the interest of the merest tyro and awaken the desire in him or her to learn more."—*Nature*.

"The best possible introduction to the fascinating study of geology."

"Will not only delight juveniles, but interest and instruct adults as well."—*Daily News*.

Westminster Gazette.

NATURAL HISTORY IN ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

By FRANK E. BEDDARD, M.A. Oxon., F.R.S., F.Z.S., &c. Illustrated by GAMBIER BOLTON and WINIFRED AUSTIN. Extra crown 8vo. 6s. net.

"A short, readable, attractive but accurate account of the animals usually seen at Zoological Gardens. . . . A most attractive volume."—*Nature Notes*.

TWO POCKET CLASSICS.

MAX MÜLLER'S THOUGHTS.

THOUGHTS ON LIFE AND RELIGION. By MAX

MÜLLER. Selected from his Writings, and edited by his Widow. Fcap. 8vo., cloth gilt, 2s. 6d. net; full limp leather, 3s. 6d. net.

"A small book of beautiful thoughts."—*Guardian*.

GEORGE GISSING'S FAMOUS WORK.

THE PRIVATE PAPERS OF HENRY RYECROFT.

By GEORGE GISSING. With Portrait of the Author. Cloth, 2s. 6d. net; leather, 3s. 6d. net.

"It is the revelation of a deeply interesting personality, and it is expressed in a prose of admirable strength and beauty."—*Daily Chronicle*.

The above form a Selection from the Season's Books published by ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE & CO., Ltd., of 16 James St., Haymarket, S.W.

Complete Catalogue, New List, and Prospectus of each Book will be sent post free on application.

CORPORATION of WESTERN EGYPT, Ltd.

THE first ordinary general meeting was held on December 11, at Cannon Street Hotel, the Hon. A. O. Murray, M.P., the Chairman, presiding.

The Secretary, Mr. Alfred W. Deering, having read the usual notice and report.

The Chairman said: First and foremost among our dividend-earning resources stands the land. We are essentially a commercial land company. We have grants of land in Khargeh, Dakhla, Farafra, and Bahariya Oases in Western Egypt. We have grants of land of over 622,000 acres to be taken up pro rata for thirty years, over which we have the absolute right of sale. This is one of the most valuable land concessions yet granted by the Egyptian Government, and its careful and economic development should not only provide an outlet for British capital, returning large dividends, but should add a vast revenue-producing province to the dominions of the Khedive. Our experiments in irrigation have demonstrated the fertility of the western country under favourable conditions, and the initial success we have obtained is all that can be desired. As a consequence, we are now receiving numerous applications for land, and as soon as certain formalities are complied with we shall be in a position to proceed with land sales. Meantime, we are pushing on survey work in connection with our first application with all possible speed. There is every indication that there will be an exceedingly ready sale. The price for the Nile lands, according to Crookshank Pasha, works out at about £60 per acre; but let us, for the purpose of arriving at some commercial basis for our early land sales in the Oases, assume that £12 10s. only per acre will be realised immediately. This calculation would signify no less a sum than £250,000, or the whole of our subscribed capital, from one year's operations. As regards quality, our land in the Oases is of loamy clay, yielding, even in the untutored hands of the local inhabitants, rich crops of cereals and fruits of many varieties. In regard to labour, I have no fear as to the supply. Respecting subsidiary interests I will only remark that the Dakhla Oasis was known to abound in earthy minerals—phosphates, ochres, &c.; our last year's work shows that the Khargeh Oasis contains important earthy minerals, also chiefly aluminous. Finally, we have a railway concession for seventy years. We are pushing the line forward with all possible despatch, and are acting under Government supervision, seeing that we are to enjoy a Government guarantee on our capital expenditure. Plans of upwards of thirty miles of route have already been approved by the Government, and the permanent-way material for that section, and the rolling stock for the whole line, have already been ordered and partly shipped. A complete telephone equipment has also been provided. I must not omit to mention that the survey at the Oasis end of the line is proceeding, and that the gradients that were at first thought would be somewhat steep will now be considerably lessened. Our general manager (Mr. Beckett) has had, as chief engineer of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, and as its acting general manager, railway experience which will prove of considerable advantage to the Corporation in its railway construction. Our railway, when completed, will provide access to markets for agricultural produce; moreover, it should, in view of the great rise in the value of land in the Nile Valley, tempt the fellahs to rent or purchase holdings in the Oases, and thus be instrumental in transforming these once thickly-populated tracts into a busy province again, a province which would participate in the general conditions of prosperity which Anglo-Egyptian beneficent rule has so abundantly brought to Egypt at large. I beg with confidence to submit this report and the accounts for your acceptance and adoption.

Mr. C. E. Hobhouse, M.P., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

NEW EGYPTIAN COMPANY, LTD.

THE fifth annual general meeting of the shareholders of the New Egyptian Company, Limited, was held on Thursday at the Cannon Street Hotel, Sir Gerald Fitzgerald, K.C.M.G., presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Thomas Day) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said it was with particular pleasure that he found himself presiding, for the report which they had sent out proved that, after many years of careful and painstaking preparation, the Company had now entered upon the stage at which its manifold operations would, they hope, bear fruit in the shape of regular dividends. Good profits had been realised from one of the departments of the business, and, after writing off all expenses from the incorporation of the Company up to the date of the accounts, they were still able to show the very satisfactory realised profit of £45,000, out of which they recommended the distribution of a dividend of 12½ per cent., free of income-tax. All the assets have been brought into the balance-sheet at cost, but a valuation made of the land and share assets showed an appreciation over cost price of about £100,000, irrespective of the profits on the reclaimed land, which justified the expectation of large profits being eventually realised as the works were completed. The field of operations now extended throughout the Nile Valley, from Lake Menzaleh to Lado. Commencing in the north, the Menzaleh Canal and Navigation Company, which was formed last year, has actively set to work upon the task it has in hand, and although some time has been lost owing to the delay in deciding upon and delivering the right kind of dredger, they had every hope that within a few months the Company will have connected Port Said with Matarieh, and thus, with the railway from Matarieh to Mansourah, through communication would be opened up. In Cairo, where they had also invested a limited amount of capital in well-chosen town sites, they could, if they so desired, sell all their plots now at a substantial profit. For land operations throughout the Nile Valley their organisation gave special facilities. They had a well-organised technical staff, under the able direction of Mr. Beresford, whose skilled and careful guidance had been of very great advantage to the Company. Reclamation works under Mr. Beresford's charge have been increasing year by year in extent, and, with the neighbouring plots of land purchased, now aggregate a total area of some 5,400 feddans, in which they had invested altogether, so far, round about £148,000, which works out at something over £27 per feddan. Though the Nile flood this year had again been a low one, the most recent report from Mr. Beresford expressed satisfaction with the further improvement in the value of the reclaimed land. The works carried out by the Company, which were of necessity at first of an experimental nature, have been entirely successful, and this had been fully admitted by the Irrigation Department of the Egyptian Government. This being so, the New Egyptian Company was fully entitled to expect, according to

the terms of the reclamation concession, that the Government would definitely grant the renewal of the concession for 15 years on the same broad lines as the provisional one under which the Company has hitherto been working. The Egyptian Government have, however, so far declined to give effect to the conditions of the engagement entered into, and the whole matter is at present the subject of friendly negotiation between our agents and the Government; but there can be no doubt that, should the Government not see its way to renew the concession under the terms of its engagement on the same broad lines as before, the New Egyptian Company was entitled to receive from them adequate compensation. As regards their interests in the Soudan, through the Soudan Development and Exploration Company, Limited, of which they were practically the sole proprietors, under the able management of Mr. Harold F. Hall, the navigation business on the Nile had made considerable progress, and there was every prospect that the profits would soon exceed the amount of the guarantee which the Soudan Government had granted to the Company. Although the business in the Soudan must necessarily go slowly, they saw in that country a field for the extension of enterprise and the profitable employment of capital, and hoped that, as with the Egyptian business, they would be able to earn satisfactory dividends therefrom. Having referred to the subject of the Ethiopian Railway Company, the Chairman continued:—"With regard to our other business in Egypt, it is, perhaps, needless to tell you that our staff at Cairo has been fully occupied with the many proposals that have come before it; but we intend, as before, to proceed with great caution, feeling that from time to time we shall be able to select further favourable investments. Our engineering staff has also been engaged in the preparation of plans for large reclamation and drainage businesses, which we had under consideration in the early part of this year, and which the Company is prepared to take up whenever the Egyptian Government decides to receive proposals for these works. The board again wish to express their satisfaction with the services rendered by all the members of the Company's staff, both in Egypt and London, to whom great credit is due for the good work carried out by them on behalf of the Company. It was with much regret we reported to you that we should be deprived of the presence on our board of H.H. Prince Hussein Kamil and H.E. Boghos Pasha, who have taken upon themselves other increasing duties. Sir John Rogers now also retires from his post of local manager in Egypt, but will become a member of our board and remain our chief local adviser. Mr. H. B. Greville, at present Cairo manager of the Bank of Egypt, will take his place as our local manager. We have also under contemplation the nomination on our board of another Cairo director, thoroughly conversant with Egyptian affairs." He formally moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Henry Pasteur seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

The Chairman proposed the declaration of a dividend of 12½ per cent., free of income-tax.

Sir Charles B. Euan-Smith, K.C.B., C.S.I., seconded the motion, which was carried.

Mr. Davids proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors for their management of the company's affairs.

The vote was unanimously accorded, and the Chairman thanked the shareholders. The proceedings then terminated.

ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS CORPORATION.

THE eighth annual general meeting of the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Limited, was held on Thursday, at the Holborn Restaurant, the Viscount Duncannon, C.O.V., C.B. (chairman of the company), presiding.

Mr. C. W. Mann (secretary and manager) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman took up the story from the last annual meeting, when it was anticipated that from January 1 last the return of gold from the Obuasi group would be 1 oz. per ton. That promise was unfortunately not fulfilled, and for January they only had a yield of practically half that amount. On receipt of this information the board decided that the time had arrived to send out an independent mining engineer to report upon the property. Mr. W. R. Feldtmann's report and recommendations had been circulated among the shareholders. Mr. Feldtmann gave full details of the position of the mines, and showed that, while the ore reserves both in the Obuasi group and at Ayeim were unsatisfactory at the time of his inspection, as soon as the ore-reserve position at the Obuasi group was rehabilitated the grade of ore there could be considerably improved. Mr. Feldtmann's opinion was largely confirmed. 145,000 tons of ore had been crushed from the Obuasi group since the crushing operations commenced. The total yield from all sources was estimated to be 17½ dwt. per ton when full milling was resumed. It would appear that by July next the ore-reserve position of the Obuasi group would be re-established, and the Company would be able to resume full crushing with the 50 stamps. The work in the mines was so arranged that during the restricted milling period the ore was being extracted so as to facilitate the plan of development, and the gold recovered was paying for such development and all the revenue expenses, including those in London. As soon as the position at Obuasi had been restored, attention would be paid to the recommencement of development operations at Ayeim, which meant the sinking of a shaft to open the mine in depth. The estimated cost of the shaft equipment and sinking 200 feet was £6,000, and they had arranged for that amount. The problem of the best extraction was still unsolved, but systematic experiments were being made, and they looked for a satisfactory conclusion. The working costs had been reduced by 14s. 6d. per ton compared with those for the year ended June 30, 1904. The directors had endeavoured to obtain a reduction in the rate of royalty payable to the Government of the Gold Coast. The negotiations so far had not been successful, but the Government had agreed to accept payment of the balance of £15,000 due to it up to June 30, 1905, in four equal yearly instalments, the first of which was payable on June 30 next. To provide the further capital needed the directors made a successful issue of £80,000 of seven per cent. debentures, and had paid off the loan from the bankers and all other creditors except the £15,000 due to the Government. The shareholders were to be congratulated on the cancellation of the Gold Coast Government Railway guarantee. He regretted that the railway rates had not been reduced to a greater extent; the directors had been in communication with the Colonial Office on the matter, and had reason to hope for a successful outcome. It had been a trying year for the directors, but they had spared no effort to further development, and on the present basis looked forward to a profit of £1 10s. per ton, which on a 72,000-ton output equals £108,000 per annum.

The motion for the adoption of the report was seconded by Mr. George Edwards, and carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

TAQUAH & ABOSSO GOLD MINING CO.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Taquah and Abosso Company was held yesterday at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C., Sir Charles Euan-Smith, K.C.B., C.S.I. (Chairman of the Board), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. T. J. Foster) read the notice convening the meeting and the Report of the Auditors.

The Chairman, in proposing the adoption of the Report and Balance Sheet for the year ending 30th June, 1905, said he hoped they would agree in considering them very satisfactory. "In the Balance Sheet of last year there was an entry of 20,000 Shares in the Mantram Company received by us in settlement of a boundary dispute, and this we tentatively valued, for account purposes, at a round sum of £5,000. Since then, however, the Company in question has gone into liquidation, and the Shares no longer figure in our accounts; but, as they really did not cost us anything, we have, with the permission of the Auditors, transferred this book value to our Property Account. In the last Balance Sheet also we showed a holding of £25,000 Debentures of the Abosso Gold Mining Company, Limited. This sum has now been reduced to £14,000 by our having converted £11,000 Debentures into Ordinary Shares, which we have since sold at a profit of £3,437 10s., and this, together with the amount of interest earned, has enabled us to keep down our general expenditure in Africa and Europe to the modest total for the year of £3,344 0s. 4d. With reference to the Taquah Mine, you will have noticed in our circulars, and also in our Report, that we have deemed it advisable and more convenient to adopt for our accounts the 'Short' ton of 2,000 lbs. Our mine, I am glad to say, is opening out in accordance with our most sanguine expectations, and at the end of October nearly 60,000 tons were in sight, of an average value of 23 pennyweights to the ton. We informed you last year that it was our intention to re-erect ten heads of the old mill which was on the property, to crush the ore raised during development, and, as opportunity might serve, to deal with the dumps that have been accumulated upon the property. During the year under review this 10-head mill was re-erected, and in September and October crushed 695 tons of unsorted development rock and obtained a recovery of 578 ounces gold; and in November 310 tons gave a further 224 ounces; but in this month work was somewhat interfered with by a temporary breakdown of the Cornish pump. These make together 802 ounces of gold from 1,005 tons of unsorted rock, or a recovery of 16 pennyweights per ton, while the tailings average 6 pennyweights per ton. The importance of these results is apparent when it is seen that the average works out at 22 pennyweights per ton; which result clearly proves the correctness of the average assay of the Mine already referred to. I may also note that during September, October, and November, 1,860 tons of old tailings were treated by the cyanide process, for a return of 558 ounces gold. These facts generally all tend to show that the Mine is rapidly becoming ripe for the installation of a permanent crushing plant on a large scale, and your Directors have it in consideration to proceed at once with the necessary arrangements for sending out a mill of 50 heavy stamps, as you will see from the Report. An interesting fact in this connection is that your Board is now considering the advisability or otherwise of installing a suction gas-engine plant, regarding which our Engineers have been making the most searching inquiries; and Mr. Stockfield has lately been over to the Continent for the purpose of inspecting certain plants of an analogous description that are now in use there. The result of our investigations, as far as they have gone, seem to indicate that gas engines for mining purposes can be introduced upon the West Coast of Africa, with marked advantages to the Company in the cost of fuel and up-keep and saving in labour. There seem to be no difficulties in running a producer-gas generator and engines on the Coast; but you may be sure that we shall not take a decision which is fraught with so much importance to the Company without exercising the utmost care and precaution. As already stated to you in the Report, the Capital that will be necessary to instal and equip the Mill that is to be placed upon the property has already been provided for by the sale of 40,980 of our Shares, which were placed at 30s. each, and for a commission of 6d. per share. The funds realised by this sale, together with the returns that will be obtained from the 10-stamp Mill alluded to above, and the cash and security now in hand, will, it is believed, suffice for the complete installation of the new plant and for the carrying-on of the development of the Mine until the productive point can be reached, as we hope it will, by the latter part of next year. It may be noted that the working costs of the Taquah Mine will not be so large as those experienced in the Abosso Mine; the reef is wider, there is no indication of dyke matter, and the mill site is more favourable for economical working. With reference to the Abosso Company, which, as you know, has now reached a producing stage, I have nothing to add to what is stated in the report beyond advising you of the receipt of cable advice that during November 3,505 ounces of gold were won, valued at £14,054, with an expenditure, all included, of not more than 42s. per ton. At our Meeting last year Mr. Stockfield informed you that this was the figure at which he hoped to be able to work the Abosso Mine when once it was fairly started, and he expects to make still further reductions. The operations of the Ankobra Company have also been fully dealt with in the report now before you. The only new point is that the No. 2 Dredger has made a successful start in November, and for that month's work obtained 144 ounces gold. As to the health upon the Coast, it has not been so good as during the preceding year; but we have an excellent doctor, who with his wife, a trained and qualified nurse, pay every possible attention to our staff. Last year in the speech I delivered to you I alluded to the burden we had to bear in the high charges made by the Government Railway Administration. I am glad to say that, though there is much to call for reform in this connection, an improvement has been made, and the rate for transport is not so heavy as it was in former years. The question of native labour, to which I alluded last year, has undergone little change. We have been able to obtain a large supply, although the labour, as already stated, is not of the very best quality. Our relations with the authorities continue, we are glad to say, to be of a most satisfactory character." He concluded with a reference to Mr. Edward H. Baydon's resignation of his seat on the Board and a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Stockfield, the General Manager, and those subordinate to him.—Sir John Hay seconded the resolution.

Mr. Stockfield, the manager, said the position was now different from that a year ago, as there were now 60,000 tons of ore in sight; and another 12 months' work would prove another 100,000 tons. The Taquah Mines were not only more favourably situated than the Abosso, but the reef, being larger, offered more facilities for cheap working. There had been reductions in the railway rates. In his opinion the Taquah Mine was on the best shoot of gold so far proved on the line of Banket.

The resolution approving the report was carried unanimously.

ABOSSO GOLD MINING.

THE annual general meeting of this Company was held yesterday at the Cannon Street Hotel, Sir Charles Euan-Smith, K.C.B., C.S.I. (Chairman of the Board), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. T. J. Foster) read the notice and the Auditors' Report.

The CHAIRMAN congratulated the shareholders upon the realisation of the hopes put forward last year that the prospects of the mine were of a satisfactory character, and that they should before long arrive at a producing stage. Their hopes in these respects had certainly not been falsified. "As regards the balance-sheet, the principal point on the debit side is to note that our debenture issue has been reduced by £12,465, which amount was exchanged for a like number of shares taken from the 100,000 shares surrendered by the Taquah Company, and held for this Company's account by trustees, and in this connection I might remind existing Debenture-holders that the right of exchange expires at 30th June, 1906. The position of the Company warrants the belief that the remaining holders will largely avail themselves of this right by that date. Under the head of Sundry Creditors there is one item which calls for some remark. In order to enable us to complete the installation of our plant and development, the parent Company assisted us with the loan shown in the Balance Sheet. I am pleased to say that this advance has been paid off. As to Mine Development Account, the figure given above, £47,507 4s. 8d., represents the cost of opening up 84,324 tons of ore ready for stoping for the mill, and this works out to 11s. 3d. per ton of 2,000 lb. This figure we take at present as the rate of redemption, and it will be seen that £5,439 18s. 9d. has thus been written off on account of the ore crushed up to 30th June last. Of course the cost of all new development work has now been added to this account, and, as we are now driving on a wider reef, and consequently opening out more ore for the same amount of work, it is hoped when the next survey and calculation are made that it will disclose a less average cost, and so permit of a material reduction in the redemption rate. Our first Profit and Loss Account is for the four months March-June only, and shows a balance, after deducting Debenture Interest, of £6,850 10s. 6d. The Working Costs are given in full detail on Schedule 1 accompanying the Report. They are higher than it was hoped they would be, and this is largely due to the fact that mining has been costly on account of the bad hanging wall in the S.W. section of the Nos. 2 and 3 Levels, where we commenced stoping. In the lowest levels the dyke is smaller and is passing away, so that we trust soon to have the mining cost reduced to a lower level. The other headings of expenditure shown on the Schedule perhaps need not be gone through one by one, but as to Maintenance it may be pointed out that this includes repairs, renewals, and alterations to machinery, plant and buildings. It is the practice of some companies to place this expenditure direct to the Capital Accounts under these headings and deal with the matter by writing off an amount for depreciation from the profits at the end of the year. You will see that by our system we practically write off our depreciation from our profits month by month. It has appeared to the Board to be a simpler method to charge Maintenance direct to working costs, and have done with it. To summarise Working Costs:—The total for the first four months averages 50s. 5d.; for October it was 44s. 6d., or 31d. less than the figure in the Schedule, which, as the note thereon explains, was a preliminary one. While for November it amounted to 42s. This last figure is based on a cabled summary of the November expenditure, and shows an important reduction. It will thus be seen that we have already made good progress towards the fulfilment of the forecast which our Manager made last year, that the working cost would be 42s., to be gradually reduced to about 35s. The rate of Working Costs is the only item in which we have not literally fulfilled the expectations we expressed to the Shareholders at the last Meeting. The Mill started on 1st March, as promised, the extraction and returns have been all that was looked for, and development is well in advance of the Mill requirements. The returns are given in full detail in Schedule No. 2, and show from March to October that 23,022 tons were crushed and 19,840 ounces bullion recovered, realising £79,622. To this must be added the November return received since the Reports were published, showing 4,163 tons crushed for 3,505 ounces gold, valued at £14,054. Together we have, in the nine months during which the Mill has been working, recovered gold valued at £93,676. The Schedule shows all details, and it may be pointed out that our gold is of high value, and that the recovery, which averages about 92 per cent., is a very good one indeed. As to the Mine, Mr. Stockfield, our Manager, will, I trust, give you a summary of all information in the remarks I shall ask him to address to you. I may point out, however, that the tonnage developed is well ahead of the requirements of the Mill, and the special attention of the Board and the Manager of your Company will continue to be directed to maintaining this satisfactory condition. We have had more than our usual share of sickness among our staff and employees, and for this cause we have sustained the loss, through the year, of some 5½ per cent. of the working time, though we have had to record only one death. It may be mentioned that His Excellency the Acting Governor, Major Herbert Bryan, in his Budget Speech in October last, points out that there has been a considerable reduction in the rate of sickness amongst the mining employees. The deaths during 1904 were 10·6 per 1,000, and the invaliding rate of 79·3 per 1,000. The death rate is not a high one even for a temperate climate, and as we have informed you from time to time, our employees have until this year been singularly free from sickness or disease. Dr. Wilson, our excellent doctor, has been accompanied to the Coast by his wife, and this lady, who is a trained and qualified nurse, is now in charge of our hospital. Our Manager and other officials on the Coast have also found it quite possible to take their wives with them. Reference may be made to the new Township we are now constructing at Abosso, which we hope will bring in not only a considerable revenue, but also conduce to the health of the natives and Europeans by providing for the segregation of the natives, and the enforcement of sanitary regulations. I beg formally to move that the Report now submitted, with the annexed Statement of Accounts duly audited, be received, approved, and adopted."

The resolution having been seconded, Mr. Stockfield, the manager, said the working costs could be considered satisfactory, as they had been mining a difficult and irregular reef, but as they got further into the mine the costs could be reduced to his first estimate of 35s. per ton. The recent news of the strike of reef in the Fanti Mine was important, as it was without a doubt the same reef they were working upon at Abosso. It was another proof of the permanent character of the Banket reef. The solid progress which would be made this year would silence those critics of West Africa who had judged it on its past records.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and the formal business transacted.

Ready December 15. Containing Resignation Honours and New Cabinet.

OLDEST PEERAGE VOLUME EXTANT. PUBLISHED IN THREE CENTURIES.

A very mine of information (including Addresses) regarding all living Titled Persons, and the Members of the Collateral Branches of all Peers and Baronets, Bishops, Privy Councillors, Knights and Companions of the various Orders, Precedency, Formal Modes of Address, &c., &c.

DEBRETT'S 1906 EDITION.

PEERAGE (with Index to Courtesy Titles),
BARONETAGE (with Index),
KNIGHTAGE, and
COMPANIONAGE.

Illustrated.
Accurate
and
Up-to-Date.

Also an Appendix of Royal Warrant Holders.

2,350 pages, cloth gilt (Royal Edition), 31s. 6d. net; or in Two Vols., 16s. 6d. net each. Limp morocco (special thin paper edition, half weight and thickness of Royal Edition), 50s. net.

DEBRETT'S WAISTCOAT-POCKET DIARY. The Handiest Diary for the Pocket. Scarlet paste grain, gilt edges, 1s.

JUST PUBLISHED.

THE SILLY SYCLOPEDIA.

By NOAH LOTT.

Uniform with "THE FOOLISH DICTIONARY." Cloth, gilt edges, 3s. 6d. net.

Daily Express.—"Some delightful and original definitions."

"It is a wise son that owes his own father."

"AUTOMOBILE.—A horseless idea which makes people go fast, and the money go faster."

"CZAR.—An illustration of the old proverb, Uneasy lies the King when falls the Ace."

"GAS.—A substance we make light of until the bill comes in."

These are a few extracts from what is, without doubt, the WITTIEST book of the year.

THE 1905 WINTER AMUSEMENT.

JUST READY. Size 8 in. by 5½ in. Handsomely Bound.

Fancy Embossed Cloth, assorted tints, 2s. 64 pages.

Padded Paste Grain, white paper, 3s. 6d. 64 pages, gilt edges.

Leather Imitation Pig Skin, white paper, 5s. 96 pages, gilt edges.

Leather Imitation Pig Skin, padded, 6s. 96 pages, gilt edges.

Half Calf, white paper, 8s. 6d. 96 pages, gilt edges.

Half Morocco, white paper, 8s. 6d. 96 pages, gilt edges.

Real Pig Skin, white paper, 10s. 6d. 96 pages, gilt edges.

Real Morocco, white paper, 10s. 6d. 96 pages, gilt edges.

THE PIG BOOK.

"ALL IS NOT PORK THAT'S PAWKY."

POURQUOI?

Every pig has his day (even as a dog), and as there are many dog books, why not a Pig Book? We hasten to explain that a Pig Book is a book having reference to pigs. We give it this title because it sounds more polite than "Pigs I have met." As most people draw just as well with their eyes closed as open, the inflexible rule of the Pig Book is that the artist shall close his or her eyes, draw a pig on one of the pages, and lift the pencil before putting in (or out, as the case may be) the eye of the pig. The artist then signs in order to fix the responsibility.

Some people can draw a pig, and most people think they can.

There is a line at the head of the title-page for the use of the owner, so that the page may read, "Mrs. Porkington's Pig Book," or "Chanticleer Hall Pig Book," so to speak, as the case may be.—A. PIGGE.

Each page contains humorous sketches of pigs, and is embellished with appropriate Literary Quotations from Homer to "G. K. Chesterton."

London: DEAN & SON, Ltd., 160a Fleet Street, E.C.

REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER.

Printed for the Proprietors by SPOTTISWOODE & CO. LTD., 5 New-street Square, E.C., and Published by REGINALD WEBSTER PAGE, at the Office, 33 Southampton Street, Strand, in the Parish of St. Paul, Covent Garden, in the County of London.—Saturday, 16 December, 1905.